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龍狼伝 第二十巻

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龍狼伝
The Legend of Dragon's Son

Monthly Shonen Magazine Comics

著者近影

謎の一団に襲われていた処を救い、共に漢帝国の都・許昌に入った女性・楓。彼女が尚書令・荀彧の娘であり、何者かに命を狙われている事を知った志狼は、彼女を陰より護る内、宮廷に巣くう陰謀の渦に巻き込まれていく……！華麗なる宮廷の暗部に蠢く情念――〝魔都〟策謀の章!!

Cover Design / Tsuzuki (Mizuno Pro.)

龍狼伝

The Legend of Dragon's Son

第20巻

山原義人

Yamahara Yoshito

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龍狼伝

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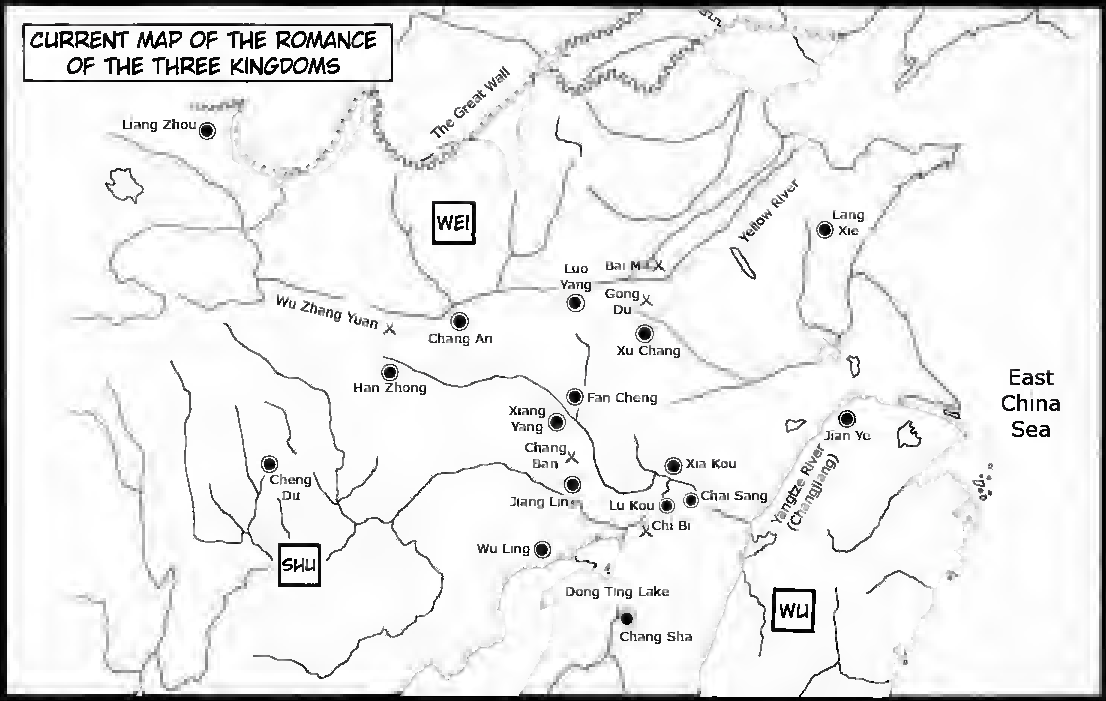
前巻まで

中学生の天地志狼と泉真澄は、突如現れた巨大な竜によって、現代から"三国志"の世界へと連れ去られ、それぞれ"竜の軍師"と"竜天女"として生きる運命を背負った。

史上名高い決戦・"赤壁の戦い"の渦中、長江の波間に消えた真澄。だが、その生存を信じる志狼は劉備軍を離れ、真澄捜索の旅を続けていた。その道中、謎の一団に襲われていた女性・楓を救った志狼は、竜の子としての正体を隠し、彼女と共に漢帝国の都・許昌に入城した。そこで楓が漢の国政を執る尚書令・荀彧の娘であり、近く天子・献帝の後宮に入る身である事を知る。そして、それを快く思わない者によって命を狙われている事も……。

楓の人柄に惹かれる志狼は、彼女を陰から護ろうと決意し、折しも荀彧邸に侵入してきた暗殺者・無呼を追跡する。だが、竹藪の中で逆に無呼の待ち伏せにあってしまい…!?

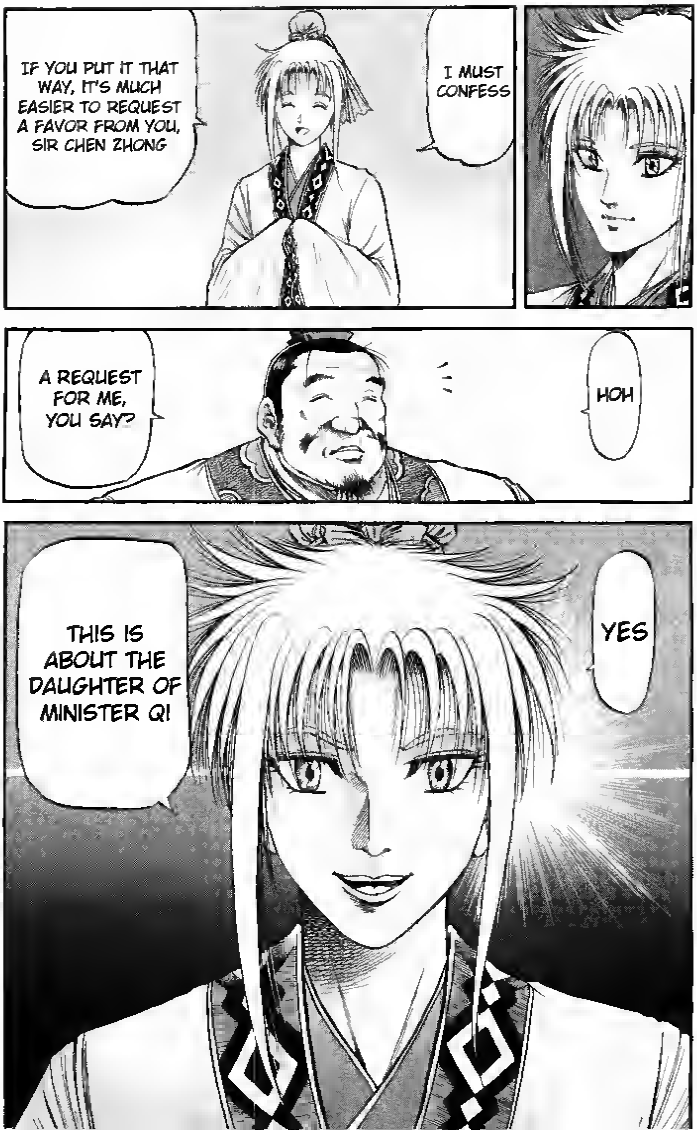

CURRENT MAP OF THE ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS
The Great Wall
Liang Zhou
WEI
Yellow River
Lang Xie
Luo Yang
Bai Ma
Gong Du
Wu Zhang Yuan
Chang An
Xu Chang
Han Zhong
Fan Cheng
East China Sea
Xiang Yang
Jian Ye
Chang Ban
Xia Kou
Cheng Du
Jiang Ling
Chai Sang
Lu Kou
Yangtze River (Changjiang)
Chi Bi
Wu Ling
SHU
Dong Ting Lake
WU
Chang Sha

IF I HAD MET YOU
EARLIER...

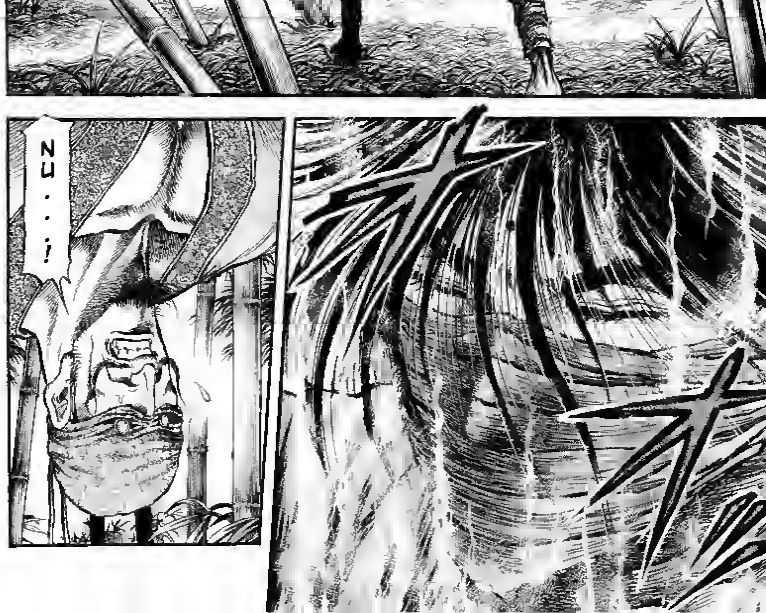
CHAPTER 75
THE ASSASSIN - WU HU
第75話
暗殺者・無呼

I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS, SIR CHEN ZHONG
I APOLOGIZE FOR VISITING SO LATE INTO THE EVENING

REFUSE VISITATION FROM THE CHIEF VASSAL OF THE CAPITAL
THERE IS NO ONE THAT CAN
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT
NOT AT ALL


I MUST CONFESS
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, IT'S MUCH EASIER TO REQUEST A FAVOR FROM YOU, SIR CHEN ZHONG
HOH
A REQUEST FOR ME, YOU SAY?
YES
THIS IS ABOUT THE DAUGHTER OF MINISTER QI

ｷｬｱｰﾝ


NU...!

CANNOT BE DONE WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO READ ALL THE BAMBOO SPEARS!!
THAT REACTION AND PRECISION, WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO SEE
THAT CAN'T BE ANYONE OTHER THAN THE LEGENDARY WARRIOR XU KONG...!!
AND WHAT HE SAID JUST NOW. HE FOUGHT WITH A 'MONSTER' THAT WAS CAPABLE OF READING HIS OPPONENT'S 'KI' AND THE SURROUNDINGS!?
IF SO, THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE... SOMEONE WHO ISN'T HUMAN!!
BUT THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYONE WHO HAS FOUGHT WITH XU KONG AND SURVIVED!

THE DRAGON'S SON!!

KU.....

KUHAHAHAHA

FUU-HAHAHA !!

!

TO THINK THAT FROM THE BORING JOB OF KILLING ONE LITTLE GIRL

I WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET SUCH A PRIZE

I THANK THE HEAVENS !!

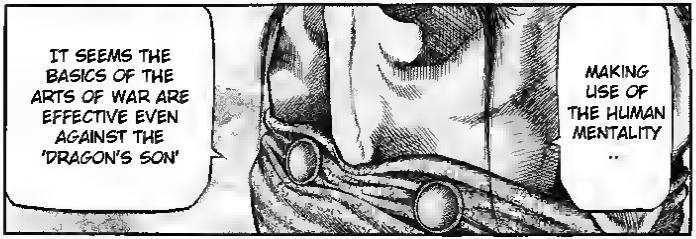
FOR GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO OBTAIN THE HIGHEST HONOR BY TAKING THE DRAGON'S HEAD!!

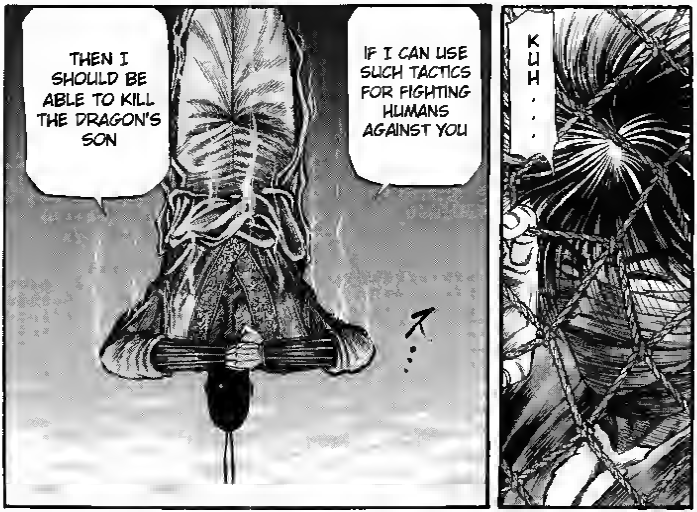
AH
COULD HE HAVE KNOWN OF XU KONG!?
DAMN! THANKS TO THAT, HE KNOWS WHO I AM
ヒュッ
KIII
ANOTHER TRAP
BUT I HAVE NO TIME TO DEAL WITH BAMBOO SPEARS!
ニヤ!

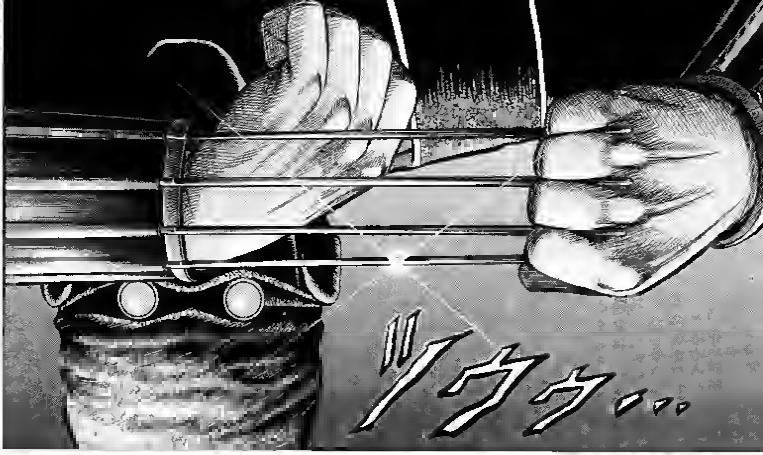
!
WH-
. . . .
!?

UH!
THIS IS... A NET!
DAMN! HE GOT ME
KUKUKU
EXACTLY

NO MATTER WHO IT IS, IF SOMEONE KEEPS GETTING ATTACKED BY THE SAME THING THEN HE WILL BECOME USED TO IT
AS EXPECTED, EVEN YOU EXPECTED THE SAME ATTACK AND WAS A MOMENT TOO LATE TO REACT


MAKING USE OF THE HUMAN MENTALITY ..
IT SEEMS THE BASICS OF THE ARTS OF WAR ARE EFFECTIVE EVEN AGAINST THE 'DRAGON'S SON'


KUH...
IF I CAN USE SUCH TACTICS FOR FIGHTING HUMANS AGAINST YOU
THEN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO KILL THE DRAGON'S SON


リウウ…

POISON NEEDLES?
....

IF I WERE YOU THAT'S WHAT I WOULD CHOOSE ...THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT
I DON'T NEED TO SEE TO KNOW

HOH
CAN YOU SEE AGAIN?

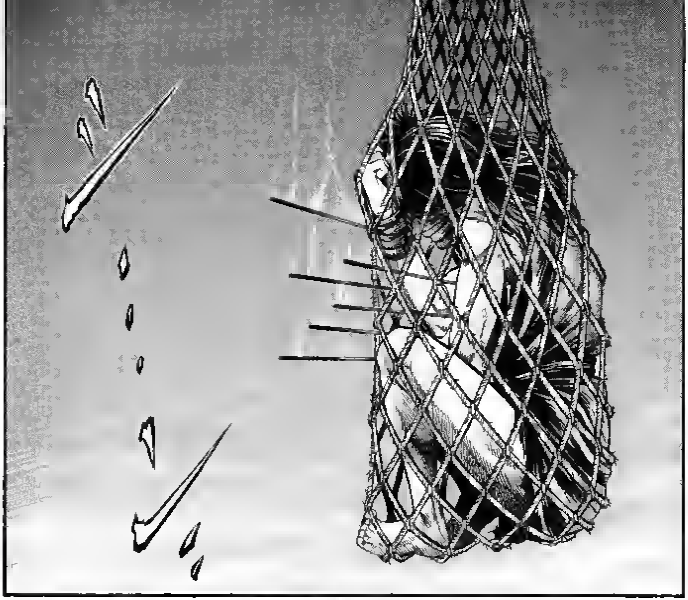
THE ABILITY TO REMAIN COMPOSED AND MAKE CLEAR DECISIONS IN THE FACE OF DEATH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO AN ASSASSIN
THE DRAGON'S SON HAS THE TALENT TO BECOME AN ASSASSIN TOO
I SEE
IS IN MY HANDS, AND I'M GETTING TOO EXCITED!!
I'M PROBABLY JUST TOO HAPPY THAT AN UNEXPECTEDLY BIG CATCH LIKE THE DRAGON'S SON
YOU SURE TALK A LOT FOR AN ASSASSIN
SPEAKING OF WHICH
YOU ARE RIGHT
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT

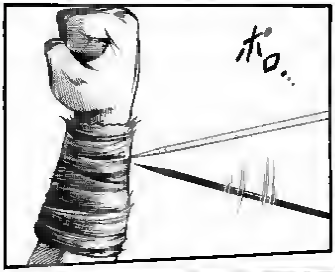
THEY START TO TALK A LOT
WHEN PEOPLE TRY TO HIDE THEIR UNEASI-NESS
BUT IS THAT ALL THERE IS TO IT?
I'M HONORED
ARE YOU HESITATING?
DO YOU TRULY THINK YOU CAN KILL ME WITH POISONED NEEDLES?
YOU'RE TRYING TO PLANT DOUBT INTO MY HEART, AND ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE ME TO FINISH IT FOR SURE WITH A SWORD INSTEAD OF NEEDLES
BUT FOR ME TO DO THAT I'LL HAVE TO GET CLOSER, AND YOU PROBABLY HAVE A COUNTER-ATTACK PREPARED
I WON'T FALL FOR THAT
KUKU..

NOW I'M SURE
THANKS TO THAT
. . .
IT LOOKS LIKE THE DRAGON'S SON FEARS THESE POISONED NEEDLES!!
BUT FOR YOU TO USE SUCH A TACTIC
I NO LONGER HAVE A SINGLE DOUBT!!

I HEAR THE SOUND OF THE NEEDLES CUTTING THROUGH THE AIR
IT'S TELLING ME HOW MUCH POWER IS BEHIND THEM
MOST LIKELY, THE NEEDLES AREN'T GOING TO PIERCE THROUGH THE ROPE OF THIS NET
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS A PERFECT ASSASSINATION PLAN!!

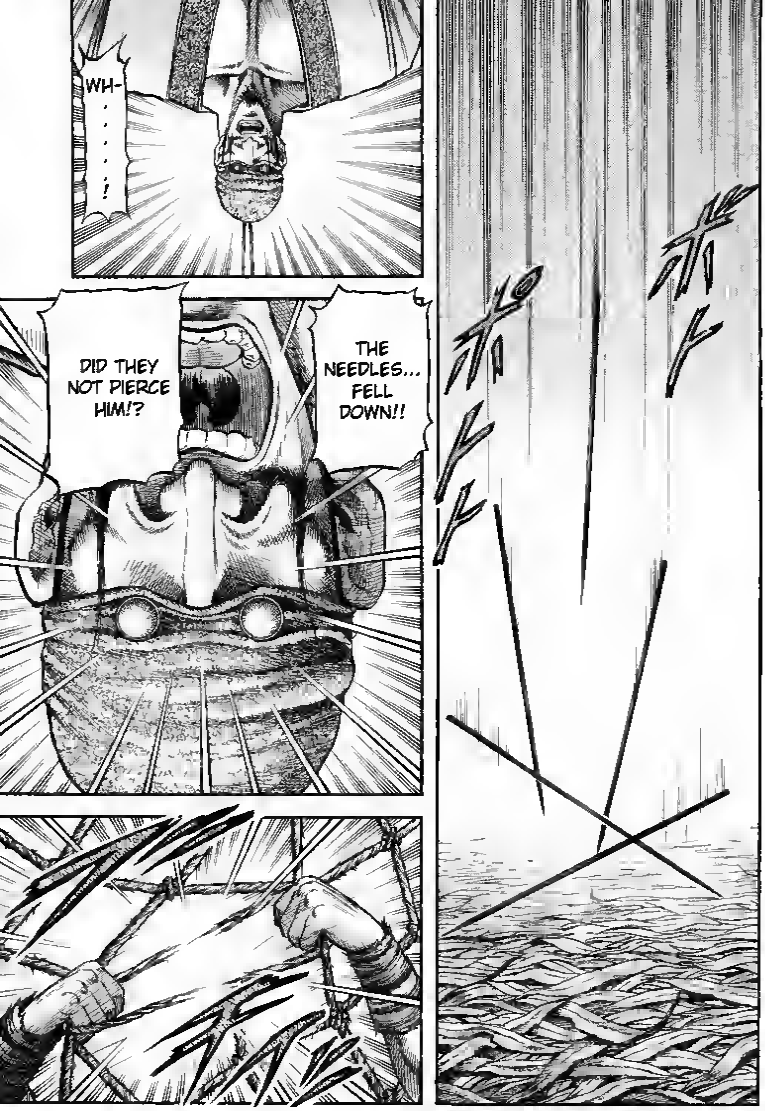
GOT HIM !!
!




ポロ…

ツ…

フオオ…

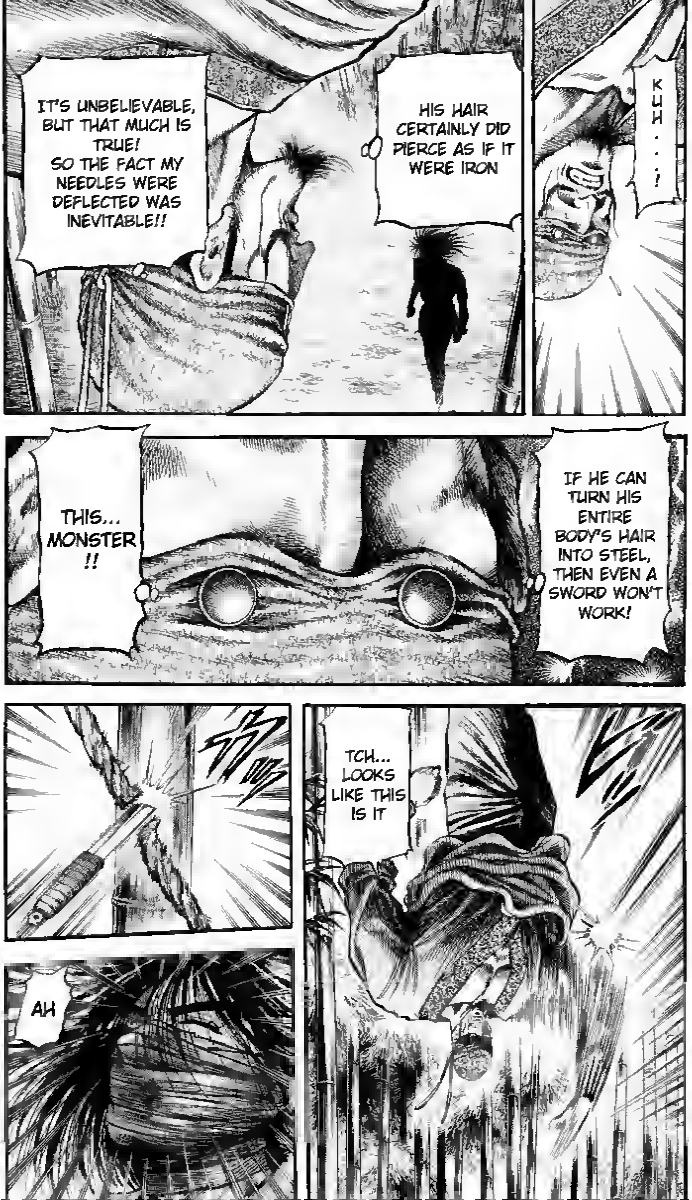

WH-
.....!
DID THEY NOT PIERCE HIM!?
THE NEEDLES... FELL DOWN!!
ポトポトポト

YOUR METHOD OF ASSASS-INATION WAS NOT MISTAKEN
THAT IS, FOR ANYONE OTHER THAN ME...!

AH

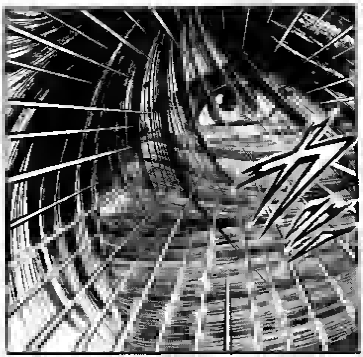
!
NEEDLES AGAINST NEEDLES, IS IT?!
TCH
THIS IS ...
A STRAND OF HAIR !?
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S JUST A STAND OF HAIR
THAT HAS BEEN HARDENED BY 'KI'

WHAT!?
!
WHAT IF I COULD DO THAT TO ALL OF MY HAIR...!?
ALTHOUGH THAT IS JUST A SINGLE STRAND OF HAIR
-THIS- IS THE TRUE IRON SKIN TECHNIQUE ...!!
NOT JUST HAIR, BUT EVEN CLOTHING CAN BE IMBUED WITH 'KI', TURNING ALL OF IT INTO ARMOR

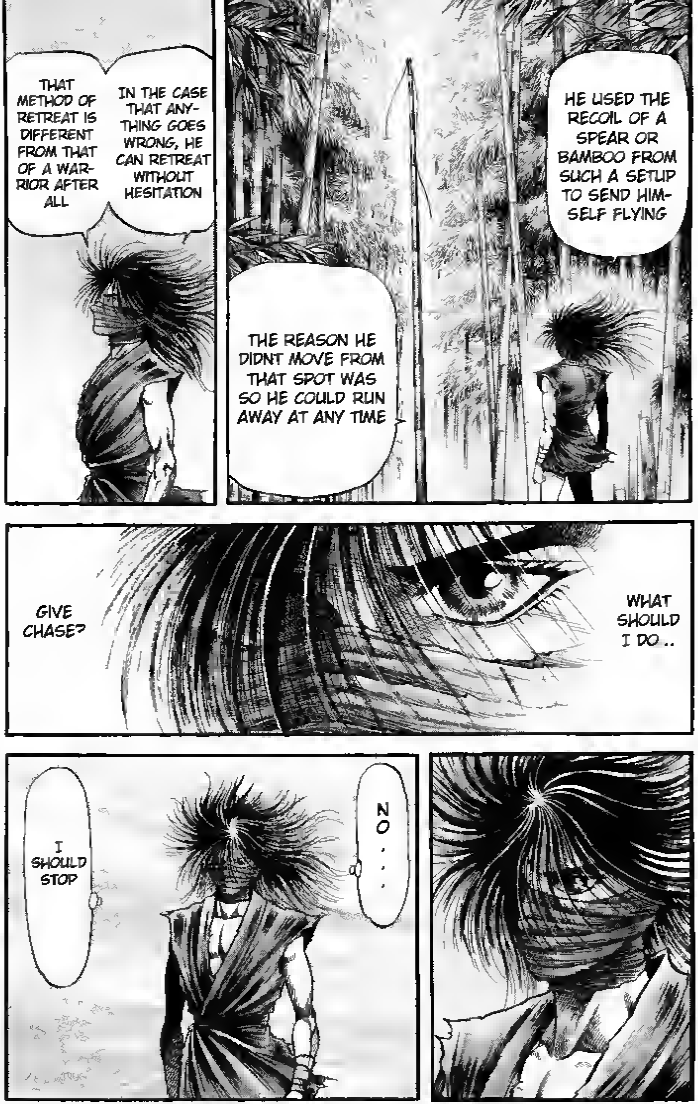

KUH...!
HIS HAIR CERTAINLY DID PIERCE AS IF IT WERE IRON
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, BUT THAT MUCH IS TRUE! SO THE FACT MY NEEDLES WERE DEFLECTED WAS INEVITABLE!!
IF HE CAN TURN HIS ENTIRE BODY'S HAIR INTO STEEL, THEN EVEN A SWORD WON'T WORK!
THIS... MONSTER !!
TCH... LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT
AH

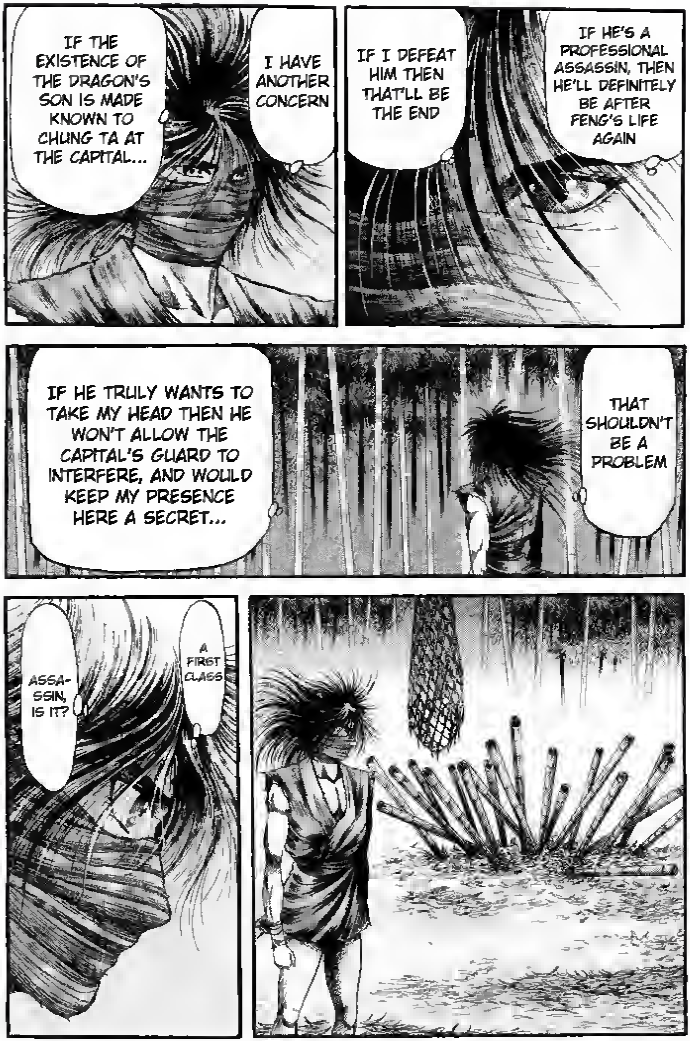
バッ

ヒュウウゥ

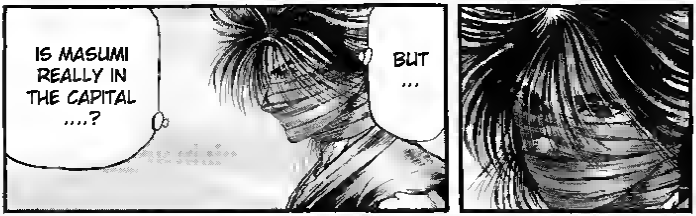


HE'S RUNNING!?
THE SOUND OF SOMEONE SOARING THROUGH THE SKY...GOING FURTHER AWAY!?

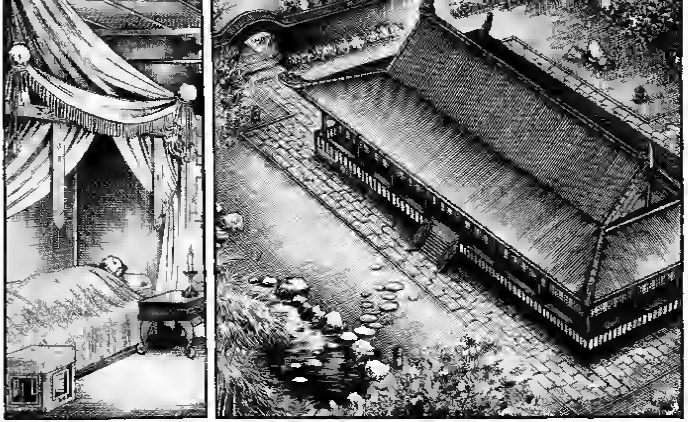

THAT METHOD OF RETREAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF A WARRIOR AFTER ALL
IN THE CASE THAT ANYTHING GOES WRONG, HE CAN RETREAT WITHOUT HESITATION
THE REASON HE DIDNT MOVE FROM THAT SPOT WAS SO HE COULD RUN AWAY AT ANY TIME
HE USED THE RECOIL OF A SPEAR OR BAMBOO FROM SUCH A SETUP TO SEND HIMSELF FLYING
GIVE CHASE?
WHAT SHOULD I DO..
I SHOULD STOP
NO...


IF THE EXISTENCE OF THE DRAGON'S SON IS MADE KNOWN TO CHUNG TA AT THE CAPITAL...
I HAVE ANOTHER CONCERN
IF I DEFEAT HIM THEN THAT'LL BE THE END
IF HE'S A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN, THEN HE'LL DEFINITELY BE AFTER FENG'S LIFE AGAIN
IF HE TRULY WANTS TO TAKE MY HEAD THEN HE WON'T ALLOW THE CAPITAL'S GUARD TO INTERFERE, AND WOULD KEEP MY PRESENCE HERE A SECRET...
THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM
ASSA-SSIN, IS IT?
A FIRST CLASS

IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR WHEN I SNEAK INTO THE PALACE
THERE'S A LOT TO LEARN...


IS MASUMI REALLY IN THE CAPITAL ....?
BUT ...

MASUMI...

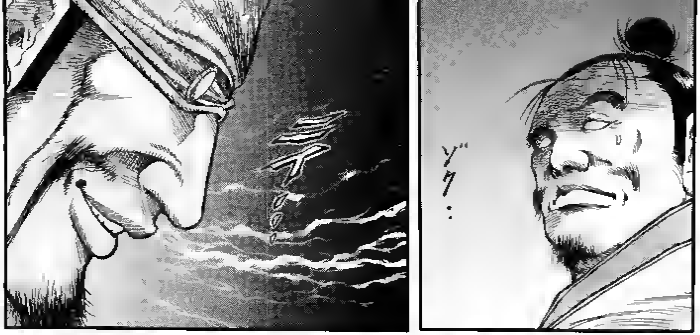


WU HU, IS IT?
ユラ・

YES...
ス・

I SEE
MEANS YOU'VE FAILED?
THE FACT THAT YOU'VE COME HERE ONCE AGAIN
I AM WITHDRAWING MY HAND FROM THIS MATTER
WELL IT'S OK
NO LONGER NEED TO TARGET QI ZHOU'S DAUGHTER...!
YOU
!

I WILL GIVE YOU HALF OF THE REWARD
YOU MAY LEAVE WITH THAT
I DON'T NEED
THE REWARD
WHAT?
'KILLING' IS MY INSTINCT
AN ASSASSIN WITHOUT THAT IS A HUNTER THAT CANNOT SURVIVE
YOU DO NOT KNOW
THE TRUE NATURE OF AN ASSASSIN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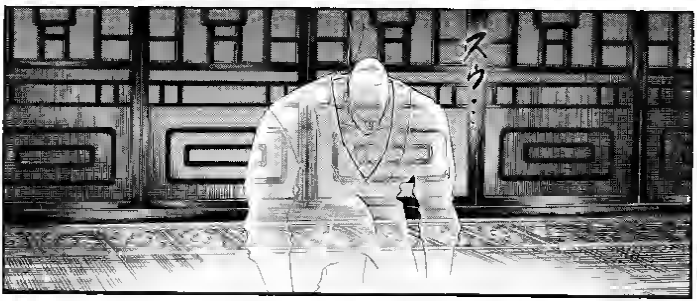
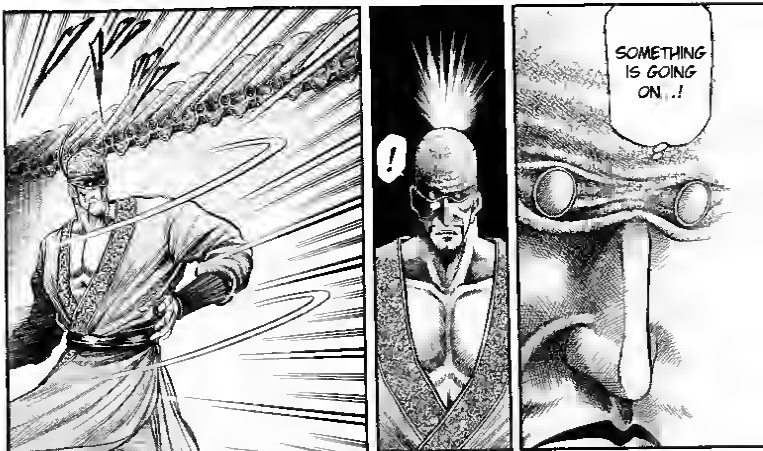

スウ…

IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE FOR THAT MAN TO TURN AGAINST ME AT ANY MOMENT...
AS LONG AS THERE'S A REQUEST

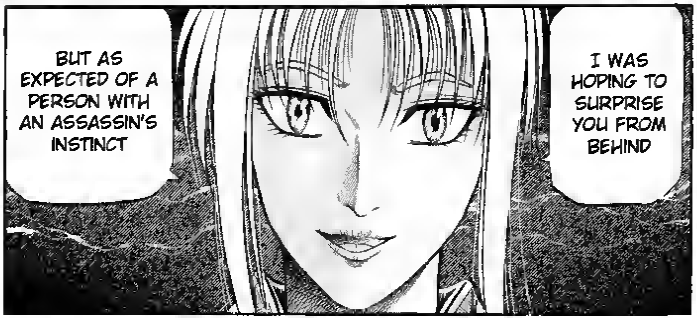
MAD DOG ...

...

I DON'T GET IT ...
IF HE IS SO ENVIOUS OF QI ZHOU'S POSITION, WHY WOULD HE SUDDENLY GIVE UP ON ASSASSINATING FENG!?


SOMETHING IS GOING ON..!
!

YOU NOTICED ME
OH?


BUT AS EXPECTED OF A PERSON WITH AN ASSASSIN'S INSTINCT
I WAS HOPING TO SURPRISE YOU FROM BEHIND

I, WU HU, WAS CAUGHT BY THIS BOY AT SUCH A SHORT DISTANCE!?
IT COULDN'T BE...!

SORRY
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT, SO I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU
IN SHORT
YOU AREN'T STILL PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE SIR QI ZHOU'S DAUGHTER, ARE YOU?
!
I SEE
THIS GUY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH CHEN ZHONG'S SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART!
?

REST ASSURED
TO KILL WITHOUT A REQUEST IS AGAINST MY PRINCIPLES
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU
CAN YOU, WHO SEEK TO SATISFY YOUR NEED TO KILL, GIVE UP SO EASILY AFTER FAILING TO DO SO?
!!!
LIAR
YOU WILL BECOME 'FOOD' FOR MY SOLDIERS

WHAT
ARE THEY !?

G!.....!?

Nu....!

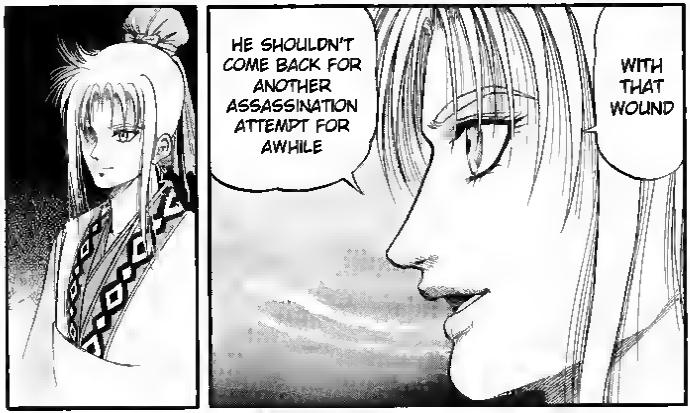
スタッ

BASTARD, WHO ARE YOU!?
YOU CALL THOSE SOLDIERS ...!?
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS AVOIDED A STRIKE FROM MY SOLDIERS
WOW, THAT'S AMAZING
?
I AM
SIMPLY A PALACE OFFICIAL
AND THESE SOLDIERS ARE
THE IMPERIAL GUARD OF THIS PALACE
FU
FU

HMPH
THE BOY FEIGNS INNOCENCE
ドゥ ドゥ
TCH...!
I COULDN'T AVOID ALL OF IT
THE MOVEMENT OF THESE MONSTERS...
IT'S ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THAT OF DRAGON'S SON... NO, EVEN FASTER!!
FIRST THE DRAGON'S SON, AND NOW THESE MONSTERS...
THE CAPITAL MUST BE A DEN FOR MONSTERS!!

ヒュッ

IT'S OK, DON'T PURSUE
GI!


HE SHOULDN'T COME BACK FOR ANOTHER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT FOR AWHILE
WITH THAT WOUND

LADY FENG IS NOW A PALACE MAIDEN
INTERFERING WITH THAT IS THE SAME AS BRINGING DISORDER UPON THE IMPERIAL PALACE
I WILL NOT FORGIVE A SINGLE FOOL WHO WOULD DARE...
EVEN IF HE WERE THE "DRAGON'S SON"

CREDITS:
TRANSLATOR: NEOPHYTE
PROOFREADER: NEOPHYTE
QA: NEOPHYTE
DATE RELEASED: JUNE 09, 2011
FORUM: RYUURODEN.FREEFORUMS.ORG

SORRY, BUT THERE WILL LIKELY BE A SHORT HIATUS AS I WILL BE MOVING TO NEW DUTY STATION WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK -NEOPHYTE

CHAPTER 76
SUBTLE TREMORS

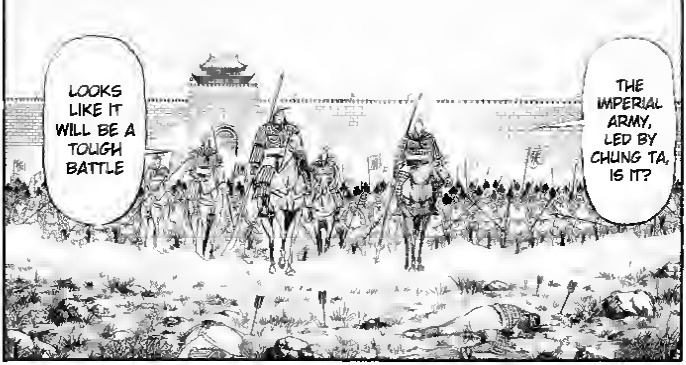
第76話
静かなる胎動

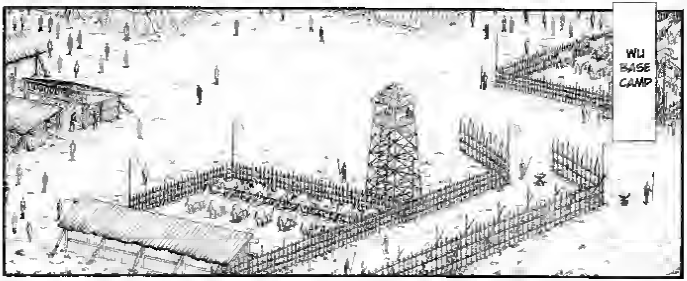
わあああ
わあああ
わあああ
CITY OF JIANG LING
SFX: WAAAAH!
GAH!
GAH!
NUOOOO!

AH
SO THAT'S ZHANG LIAO!!
S-STRONG...
GAH
GWAH!
LEAVE SOME FOR ME TOO!
HAHA! NOT BAD, ZHANG LIAO

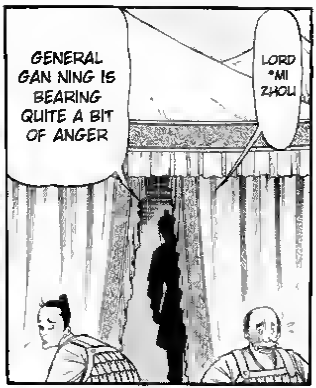
THEN COME WITH ME
HAH HAHA
SIR XU HUANG
RIGHT BACK AT YOU
HN?
THESE BRIEF ENCOUNTERS ..
HOW MANY TIMES IS IT NOW?
DAMN THAT WU'S ARMY, RUNNING AWAY AGAIN
GE GEH
IT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR A YEAR NOW, EVEN KEEPING COUNT IS A PAIN!
HELL IF I KNOW!

I'VE SEEN THROUGH THEIR PLAN TO WEAR US OUT WITH A DRAWN OUT WAR
ALTHOUGH WE'RE CAO CAO'S SOLDIERS, MOST OF THESE SOLDIERS OF JIANG LING ARE FROM JING PROVINCE
I KNOW
IT'S FORBIDDEN TO SHOW IRRITATION
HOW FRUSTRATING
BUT IT'S EFFECTIVE
SURELY ...
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH THEY CAN CONTINUE TO INCREASE THEIR MEN'S MORALE
THEY PUT US IN THE FRONT LINES
ZHOU YU WILL NO DOUBT MAKE HIS MOVE AS WELL
AND IF THE IMPERIAL TROOPS OF THE CAPITAL WERE TO BE MOBILIZED


LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE A TOUGH BATTLE
THE IMPERIAL ARMY, LED BY CHUNG TA, IS IT?


WU BASE CAMP

SFX MUUUUUN

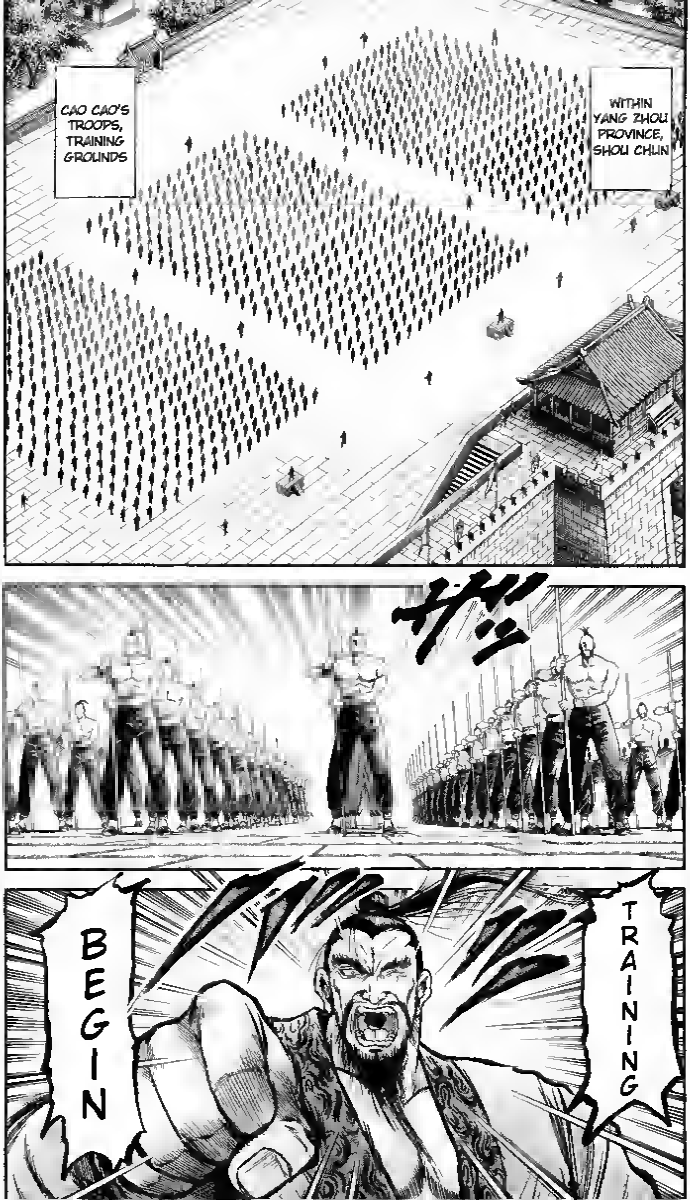


AS I THOUGHT, WE AGENTS SHOULD HAVE INFILTRATED THE CITY OF JIANG LING AND ATTACKED FROM BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE...
BECAUSE THAT PERSON IS VERY FRANK

"YES, IT IS THE SAME PERSON KNOWN AS "ZHOU YU", BUT THIS PERSON CALLS HIM "MI ZHOU" MAYBE HE'S SPECIAL

AT THIS RATE YOU'RE JUST WASTING WHAT PRECIOUS TIME YOU HAVE!
BUT LORD MI ZHOU!
AH...!
DO YOU STILL NOT REALIZE THIS OF YOURSELF?
YOUNG XIANG...
AH
YOU WON'T BE FIT FOR DUTY AS A SPY, DO NOT MAKE LIGHT OF ZHANG LIAO OR XU HUANG
WITH SUCH HOT-BLOODED IMPATIENCE
?

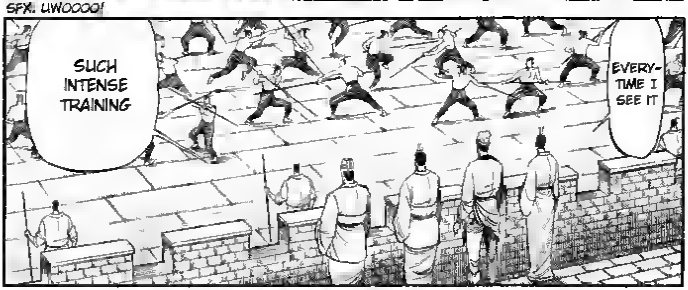
YES...
BUT WON'T YOU WAIT A LITTLE LONGER WITH ME?
I'M HAPPY YOU FEEL THAT WAY
WHEN ARE YOU MAKING YOUR MOVE, CHUNG TA!?
OR... DO YOU NOT PLAN TO!?
UNTIL THEN, THE AGREEMENT WITH CHUNG TA WAS TO KEEP CAO CAO'S ARMY AND JING PROVINCE'S TROOPS SPLIT UP, BUT..
IF CHUNG TA MOBILIZES THE IMPERIAL ARMY THEN WE CAN PINCER CAO CAO'S ARMY FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH
XU
(IMPERIAL TROOPS)
SHOU CHUN
CAO CAO
JIANG LING
(WU TROOPS)
WU


CAO CAO'S TROOPS, TRAINING GROUNDS
WITHIN YANG ZHOU PROVINCE, SHOU CHUN
BEGIN
TRAINING

うおおお
SFX: UWOOOO
ATTACK WITH THE INTENT TO BREAK YOUR OPPONENT'S BONES!!
NO NEED TO HOLD BACK!
GWAH
ドガッ
GAH
ズガッ

うおおお

SFX. UWOOOO!

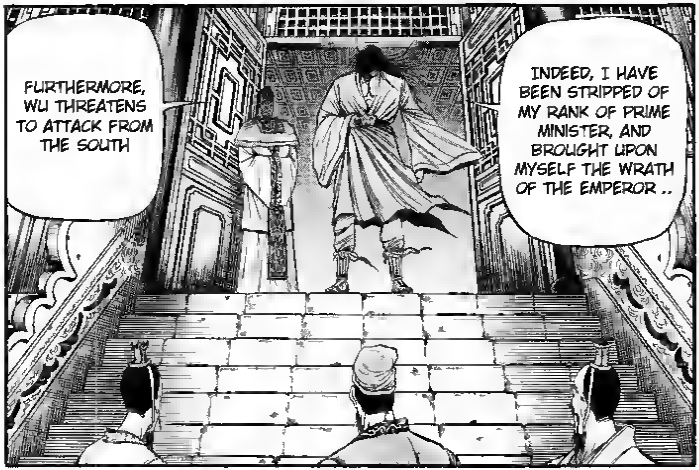

SUCH INTENSE TRAINING
EVERY-TIME I SEE IT

THE FEELING OF DESPERATION THAT THEY ARE EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW
THE TROOPS FIGHTING ON THE BATTLE-FIELD FEEL IT THE MOST

IS COMPA-RABLE TO THE TROOPS OF QING PROVINCE
THEIR VIGOR

IS CLOSE TO THAT OF THE TIGER FANG REGIMENT
NO, THEIR POWER

IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK, CHENG YU?
DESPERATION..


FURTHERMORE, WU THREATENS TO ATTACK FROM THE SOUTH
INDEED, I HAVE BEEN STRIPPED OF MY RANK OF PRIME MINISTER, AND BROUGHT UPON MYSELF THE WRATH OF THE EMPEROR ..

IS NOW UNDER CHUNG TA'S COMMAND
ALSO, THE CORE OF THE CAO ARMY, TROOPS FROM QING PROVINCE, FAMED FOR THEIR STRENGTH

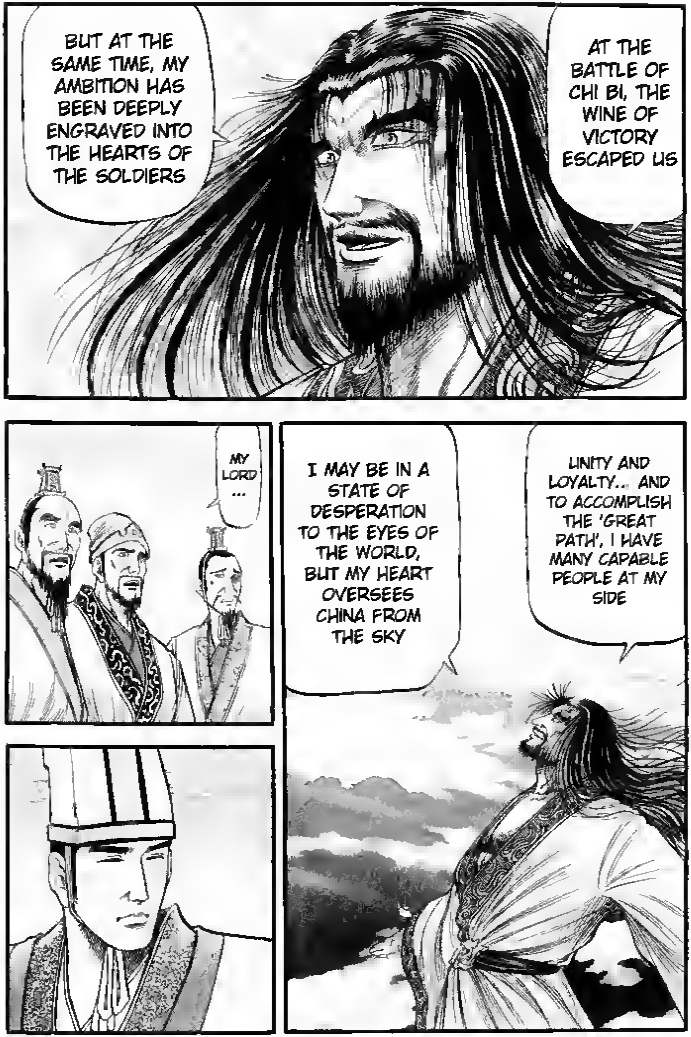
I WOULD SEEM TO BE IN A STATE OF 'DESPERATION'
IN ANYONE'S EYES
MY LORD ...

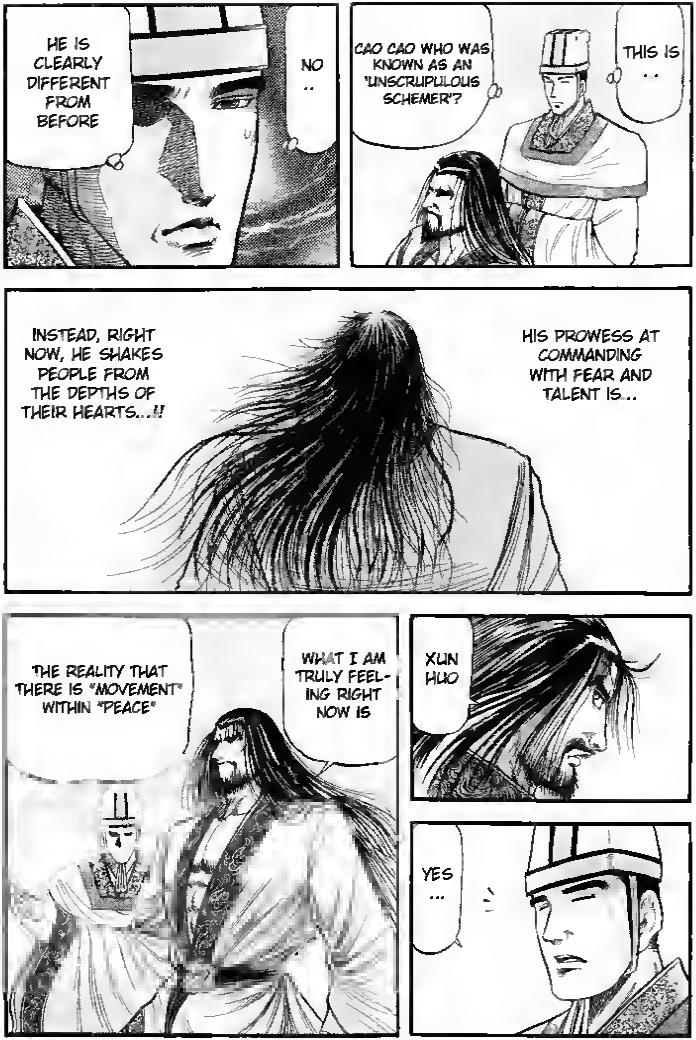
INDEED, I HAVE LOST MUCH
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT I HAVE GAINED EVEN MORE

BEHOLD
THESE FEARLESS MEN!!

BUT THERE WERE ALSO TENS OF THOUSANDS
WHO TRULY ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS LORD, AND WITH MORALE COURAGE AND TRUST-WORTHINESS WHO REMAINED

THERE WERE MANY WHO LEFT
TO SEEK A PEACEFUL LIFE OR START A FAMILY


AT THE BATTLE OF CHI BI, THE WINE OF VICTORY ESCAPED US
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, MY AMBITION HAS BEEN DEEPLY ENGRAVED INTO THE HEARTS OF THE SOLDIERS
MY LORD ...
UNITY AND LOYALTY... AND TO ACCOMPLISH THE 'GREAT PATH', I HAVE MANY CAPABLE PEOPLE AT MY SIDE
I MAY BE IN A STATE OF DESPERATION TO THE EYES OF THE WORLD, BUT MY HEART OVERSEES CHINA FROM THE SKY


HE IS CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE
NO ..
CAO CAO WHO WAS KNOWN AS AN "UNSCRUPULOUS SCHEMER"?
THIS IS ..
INSTEAD, RIGHT NOW, HE SHAKES PEOPLE FROM THE DEPTHS OF THEIR HEARTS...!!
HIS PROWESS AT COMMANDING WITH FEAR AND TALENT IS..
THE REALITY THAT THERE IS "MOVEMENT" WITHIN "PEACE"
WHAT I AM TRULY FEELING RIGHT NOW IS
XUN HUO
YES ...

TACTICS
CHUNG TA'S
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE AN OBJECT THAT DOESN'T MOVE
IT'S EASY TO SEE A MOVING OBJECT
!
ARE YOU ABLE TO SEE THROUGH HIS TRUE INTENT!?
THE REASON WHY CHUNG TA ISN'T MOBILIZING HIS TROOPS
?

ACCURATELY SPEAKING, HE MAY ALREADY BE 'MOVING'
NO
ARE THOSE THE ONLY REASONS HE ISN'T MOVING?
PREPARATION OF THE CAVALRY, SECURING PROVISIONS, INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION
ALREADY MOVING?
IS THAT KIND OF MAN!
CHUNG TA
EVEN WHEN PEOPLE DON'T MOVE, THEY ARE USING THE BLOOD AND MUSCLES WITHIN THEIR BODY
EVEN IF CHUNG TA ISN'T MOVING HIS ARMY, HE IS PLANNING SOMETHING

A REPLY TO YOUR IMPERIAL EDICT HAS ARRIVED
MY LORD
WHAT
IT CAME!?

THEY HAVE WRITTEN A LETTER OF CONSENT
FOR THE REPLY
WHAT WAS THE REPLY?
AND?
TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR
THEY WILL MAKE HASTE IN COMING TO THE CAPITAL
FINALLY, THAT MAN WILL BE IN MY PRESENCE...!!
I SEE, SO HE'S COMING

KUKU...
I CAN HEAR IT, CHUNG TA ...
THE SOUND OF A FOOTSTEP TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF CHINA...
AND I CAN SEE IT!
THE COLLAPSE
OF CAO CAO'S STRO NG-HOLD !!

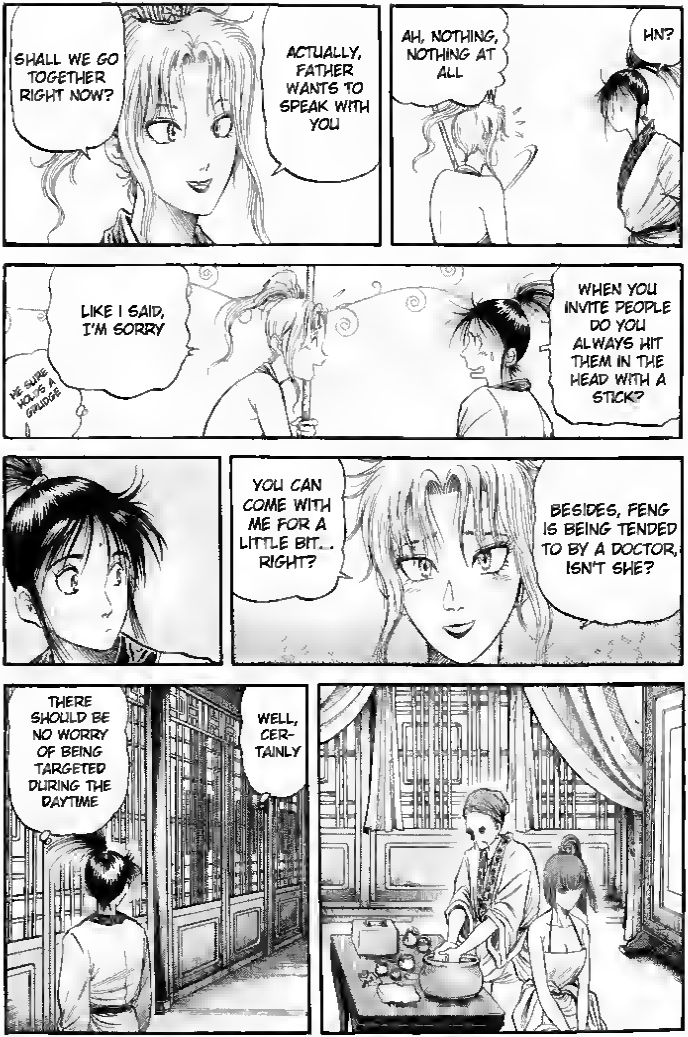
*LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY

THIS SILENCE IS ACTUALLY EERIE...
THERE IS STILL NO SIGN OF THAT ASSASSIN

THREE DAYS...
IT'S BEEN

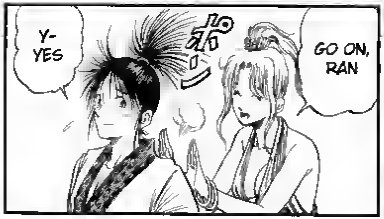
BUT WHAT AM I DOING?
HAA

I CAME HERE TO SEARCH FOR MASUMI
BUT IS NOW THE TIME TO SNEAK INTO THE PALACE..? I CAN'T JUST LEAVE FENG ALONE...
ズ…
E!
カコン
EI!
OW-
HUH?
IT CONNECTED
LI LI!
AHAHA, I'M SORRRRY
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
ODD...
I THOUGHT HE WAS ACTUALLY STRONG..


SHALL WE GO TOGETHER RIGHT NOW?
ACTUALLY, FATHER WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU
AH, NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL
HN?
LIKE I SAID, I'M SORRY
HE SURE HOLDS A GRUDGE
WHEN YOU INVITE PEOPLE DO YOU ALWAYS HIT THEM IN THE HEAD WITH A STICK?
YOU CAN COME WITH ME FOR A LITTLE BIT... RIGHT?
BESIDES, FENG IS BEING TENDED TO BY A DOCTOR, ISN'T SHE?
THERE SHOULD BE NO WORRY OF BEING TARGETED DURING THE DAYTIME
WELL, CER-TAINLY

AND BESIDES ...
チラ・
THEN SHALL WE GO?
KYA! I'M HAPPY!
WIND AND CLOUD BODY WIND AND CLOUD BODY
OWOWOW
WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING ABOUT?
EHEHEHE♡
!
U!

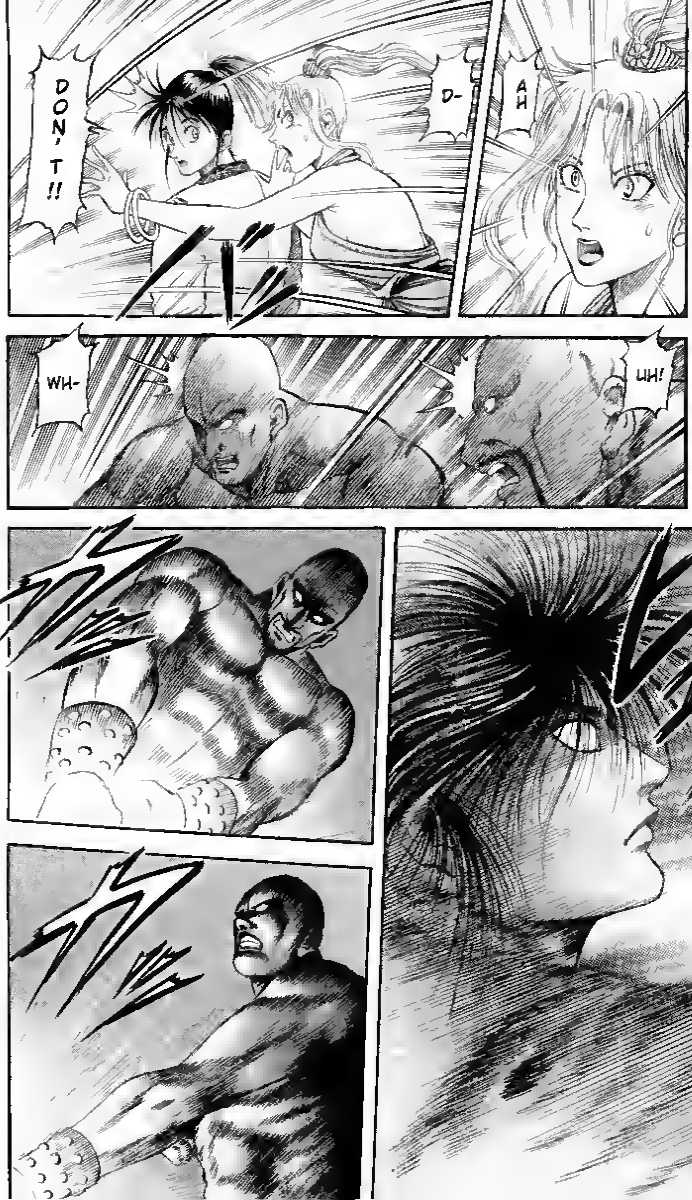
I BROUGHT RAN!
FATHERRR


Y-YES
GO ON, RAN

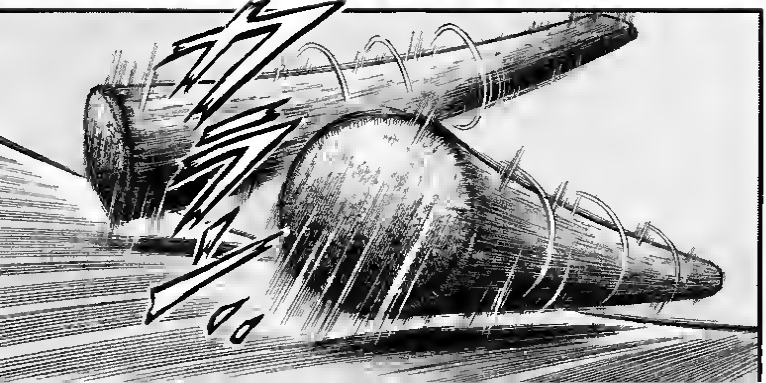
PLEASE COME IN
AAH

ト…

スウ…


DON'T!!
D-
AH
WH-
UH!

ギリ…


ズズズ…

WITH HIS BARE HAND...!!
HOW COULD ...
!
NO WAY ...
N-

'THAT' RAN...?
THIS IS...
ドキ...
FOR THE SUDDEN RUDENESS, SIR RAN..
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
NO, YOU'VE FAR EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS
BUT AS I THOUGHT, YOU ARE NOT A REGULAR BOY

AH
AHN
MINISTER QI
IT WAS A SURPRISE ATTACK FROM AN INSTRUCTOR .. WHAT IF RAN GOT INJURED!!
FATHER, WASN'T THAT TOO MUCH!?
EH?
BUT FROM THE BEGINNING I REQUESTED THAT THEY STOP BEFORE MAKING CONTACT
IT WAS INDEED A SURPRISE ATTACK, AND I APOLOGIZE
BUT YOU JUST DID THE SAME THING
PLEASE CALM DOWN

THERE WAS NO KILLING INTENT IN THEIR FIGHTING SPIRIT, I NOTICED RIGHT AWAY
YOU KNEW ?
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS AFTER ALL
IT WAS ABOUT TO HIT HER
WHEN THE LADY CAME IN MY LIVER FROZE
I SEE
AH
WE KNOW SIR RAN IS A MASTER OF MARTIAL ARTS
BUT THANKS TO THAT
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS GOING TO GET HURT BECAUSE I INTERFERED!?
THEN WHAT?
NOW NOW
HOW MEAN!!

I HAVE SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT
BY THE WAY, SIR RAN
YES...

I SEE ...
SO FENG WAS BEING TARGETED AFTER ALL...
ALTHOUGH IT WAS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN PROOF OF THAT
I APOLOGIZE FOR RENDERING YOU BOTH UNCONSCIOUS, AND THEN TAKING THE PLACE OF YOUR DAUGHTER WITHOUT PERMISSION
!
BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO MIGHT BE AFTER FENG'S LIFE?
THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLO-GIZE
AND I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR PROTECTING MY DAUGHTER
THE FOLKS THAT ARE ALWAYS AROUND FENG, FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, ARE QUITE STRONG.
INSTEAD OF FROM MY OBSERVATION, I FEEL THAT IT'S BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT FENG HAS BODYGUARDS.

IF THEIR GOAL IS TO PREVENT FENG FROM ENTERING THE PALACE, THEN IT MIGHT BE RELATED TO MINISTER QI'S POLITICAL RIVAL
THE ONLY REASON YOU WOULD HAVE AN ESCORT FOR FENG IS BECAUSE YOU DO KNOW THAT SOMEONE MIGHT BE TARGETING HER
THIS BOY'S TRUE STRENGTH MAY LIE IN HIS WISDOM, RATHER THAN MARTIAL ARTS
ALTHOUGH HE IS STILL SO YOUNG, SUCH INSIGHT..
THAT IS SOMETHING I MUST TOLERATE
BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT
OR WHO MIGHT TARGET MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE
I CAN'T SAY THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHY

THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO....!
ALL I CAN DO TO PREVENT HARM FROM COMING TO FENG RIGHT NOW IS BY PROTECTING HER WITH BODYGUARDS...
WILL YOU BECOME HER BODYGUARD!?
BUT UNTIL THE DAY FENG ENTERS THE PALACE
I KNOW I AM ASKING MUCH
SIR RAN

I WAS WONDERING IF IT WOULD COME TO THIS
THIS IS HOW IT TURNS OUT AFTER ALL
ABOVE ALL, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE FENG AS SHE IS NOW...
BUT IF FENG ENTERS THE PALACE, I MAY BE ABLE TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT MASUMI...
ANY LONGER AND I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE FROM HERE
BUT ONLY UNTIL WE REACH THE PALACE
I UNDERSTAND ...

THANK YOU, SIR RAN
. . . .
WOULD BE BETTER FOR BOTH OF US
THAT WAY
I DON'T THINK THEY WOULD TRY ANYTHING IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR ..
IF YOU, WHO HAVE FOUGHT WITH THE ASSASSIN, IS HERE THEN I AM AT EASE
I PLAN TO PRESENT FENG TO THE EMPEROR AT THAT TIME
BUT SOON, THERE WILL BE A LARGE BANQUET WITH THE EMPEROR ATTENDING
IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR ?
ACTUALLY, THIS HASN'T BEEN MADE PUBLIC YET

THE EMPEROR WILL WITNESS FENG WHO WILL PERFORM THE GREATEST PLAY
AND IT'S ALSO A BANQUET THAT LIU BEI HAS BEEN INVITED TO
!
IT IS LORD LIU XUAN DE
YES
COULD IT BE...
LIU BEI ...

WHAT'S GOING ON ...!?
LORD XUAN DE IS COMING TO THE CAPITAL ...

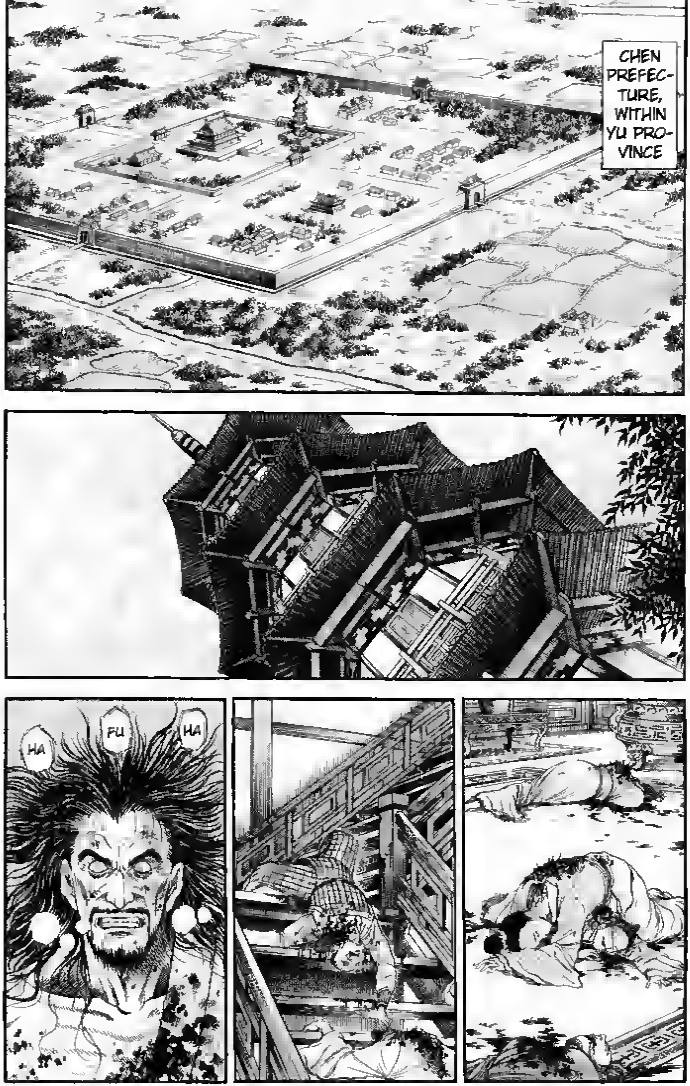
CREDITS:
TRANSLATOR: NEOPHYTE
PROOFREADER: NEOPHYTE
QA: NEOPHYTE
DATE RELEASED: JULY 05, 2011
FORUM: RYUURODEN.FREEFORUMS.ORG

SORRY FOR THE WAIT, AND I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND!!

-NEOPHYTE

CHAPTER 77
INCENSE OF RUIN

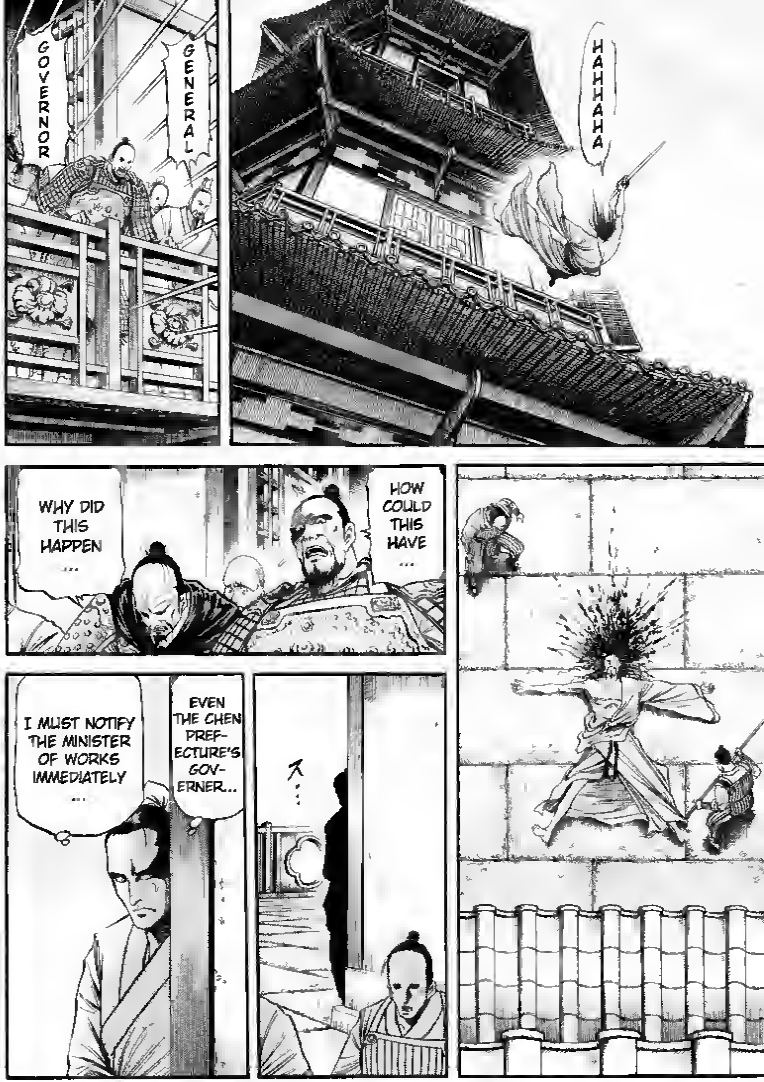
第77話
破滅という名の香

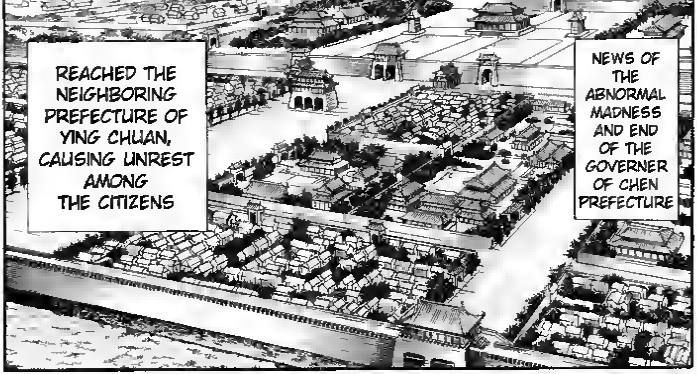

CHEN PREFECTURE, WITHIN YU PROVINCE
HA
FU
HA

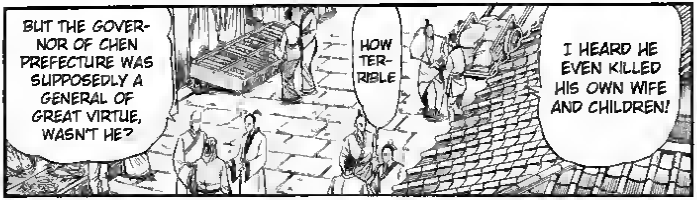
DON'T COME NEAR, YOU DEMONS!!
GET AWAY

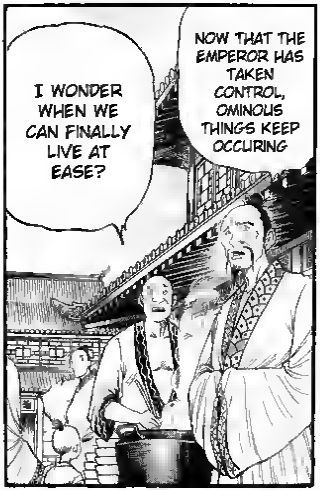
IT'S DANGEROUS, STEP DOWN FROM THERE!
GOVERNOR! PLEASE COME TO YOUR SENSES!!

ズル"
AAH
I'LL CUT YOU ALL DOWN, I'LL KILL EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU DEMONS!!
HAHHAHA


GOVERNOR
GENERAL
HAHHAHA
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN ...
HOW COULD THIS HAVE ...
I MUST NOTIFY THE MINISTER OF WORKS IMMEDIATELY ...
EVEN THE CHEN PREF-ECTURE'S GOV-ERNER...
ふ...


REACHED THE NEIGHBORING PREFECTURE OF YING CHUAN, CAUSING UNREST AMONG THE CITIZENS
NEWS OF THE ABNORMAL MADNESS AND END OF THE GOVERNER OF CHEN PREFECTURE


BUT THE GOVERNOR OF CHEN PREFECTURE WAS SUPPOSEDLY A GENERAL OF GREAT VIRTUE, WASN'T HE?
HOW TERRIBLE
I HEARD HE EVEN KILLED HIS OWN WIFE AND CHILDREN!


I WONDER WHEN WE CAN FINALLY LIVE AT EASE?
NOW THAT THE EMPEROR HAS TAKEN CONTROL, OMINOUS THINGS KEEP OCCURING

FURTHERMORE, THEY WERE ALL ONCE CAO CAO'S RETAINERS!
THAT MAKES HIM THE FIFTH GOVERNOR WHO HAS DIED LIKE THIS

COULD IT BE CAO CAO'S CURSE!?
RUMOR HAS IT IT'S BECAUSE THEY BETRAYED CAO CAO...

MAO JIE
IT SEEMS THE PEOPLE ARE BECOMING UNEASY
THE PEOPLE'S FAITH IN THE EMPEROR AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL DECLINE
IF THE SUCCESSIVE UNEXPLAINED DEATHS OF THESE GOVERNORS ARE NOT INVESTIGATED
YES
THEN WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE ?

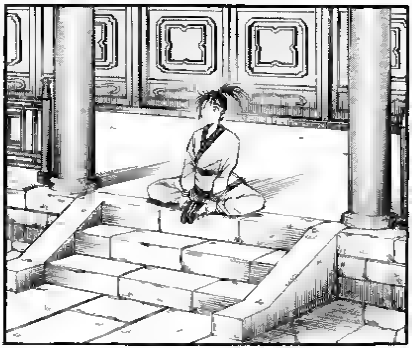
I'LL HAVE CHUNG TA INVESTIGATE
I SEE
YES, THE IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF THE CAUSE OF THESE UNNATURAL DEATHS,
AND THE REMOVAL OF ALL QUESTIONABLE AND BASELESS RUMORS PERTAINING TO THE GOVERNMENT IS VITAL
THE PRIME MINISTER ....
GOOD WORK, YOU'RE DISMISSED
HN
NOT SATISFIED?
NO, NOT AT ALL..

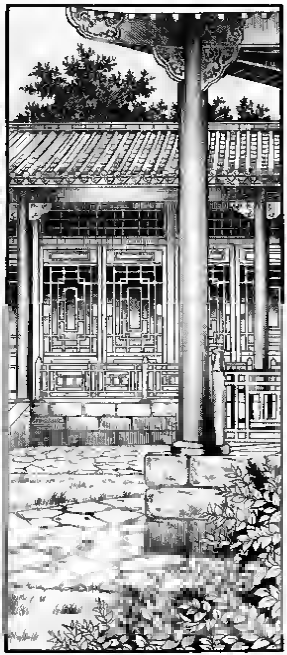
BULLSHIT!!
"LEAVE IT TO CHUNG TA"!?
GOV'T AFFAIRS DEPT
THE EMPEROR RELIES TOO MUCH ON THE PRIME MINISTER, WE CANNOT RULE WITH FAIRNESS!!
THE INJUSTICE OR ILL BEHAVIOR OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHOULD BE HANDLED BY WE OF THE GOV'T AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT!!
CALM DOWN
PLEASE
YOU AS HEAD SHOULD BE THE MOST FRUSTRATED!
SIR MAO JIE, WHY DO YOU REMAIN QUIET?

THE EMPEROR DOES INDEED FAVOR THE PRIME MINISTER
BUT THE FACT THAT THE EMPEROR IS CURRENTLY IN POWER IS ALSO DUE TO CHUNG TA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS
THAT'S
IS CHUNG TA NOT THE PROBLEM!?
ALL THE UNNATURAL DEATHS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
WERE ALL TURNED INTO PUPPETS BY CHUNG TA!!
MOST LIKELY, THIS ENTIRE SITUATION IS RELATED TO CHUNG TA!
YEAH!
ALTHOUGH TEMPORARY, HE IS STILL THE PRIME MINISTER OF CHINA
REFRAIN FROM CARELESSLY DECLARING BASELESS ACCUSATIONS IN PUBLIC!
DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT!

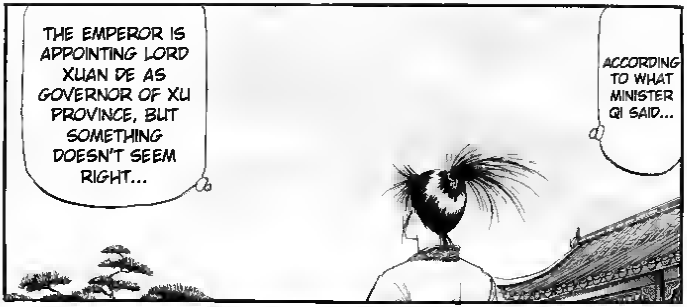
I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL
YOUR FEELINGS
UGH ...!
I WANT YOU ALL TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANY RASH SPEECH OR CONDUCT WITH EARNEST UNTIL THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONNECTION TO THIS CASE IS CLEAR
THEREFORE, I WILL INVESTIGATE THIS CASE IN SECRECY
CHUNG TA, WHO IS IN COMMAND OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY, HAS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO ACT
WILL BE JEOPARDIZED!
IF NOT, EVERYONE'S LIVES HERE
UNDERSTOOD

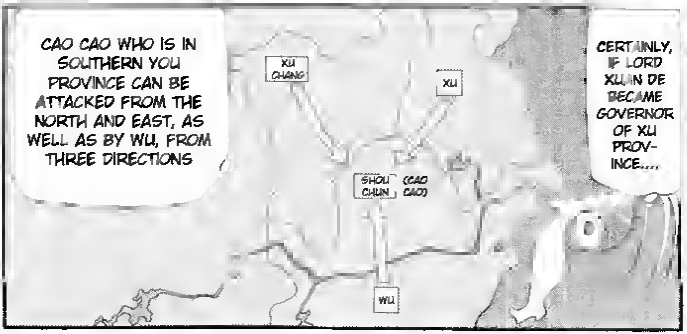
FIRST, WE MUST GATHER MANY SUPPORTERS ...!!
EVEN IF WE CAN PROVE CHUNG TA'S CONNECTION TO THIS CASE

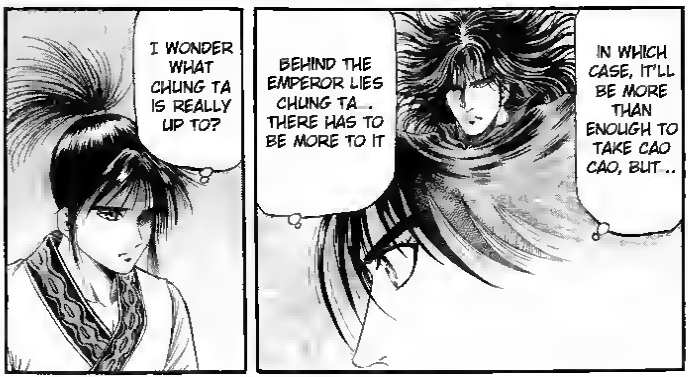


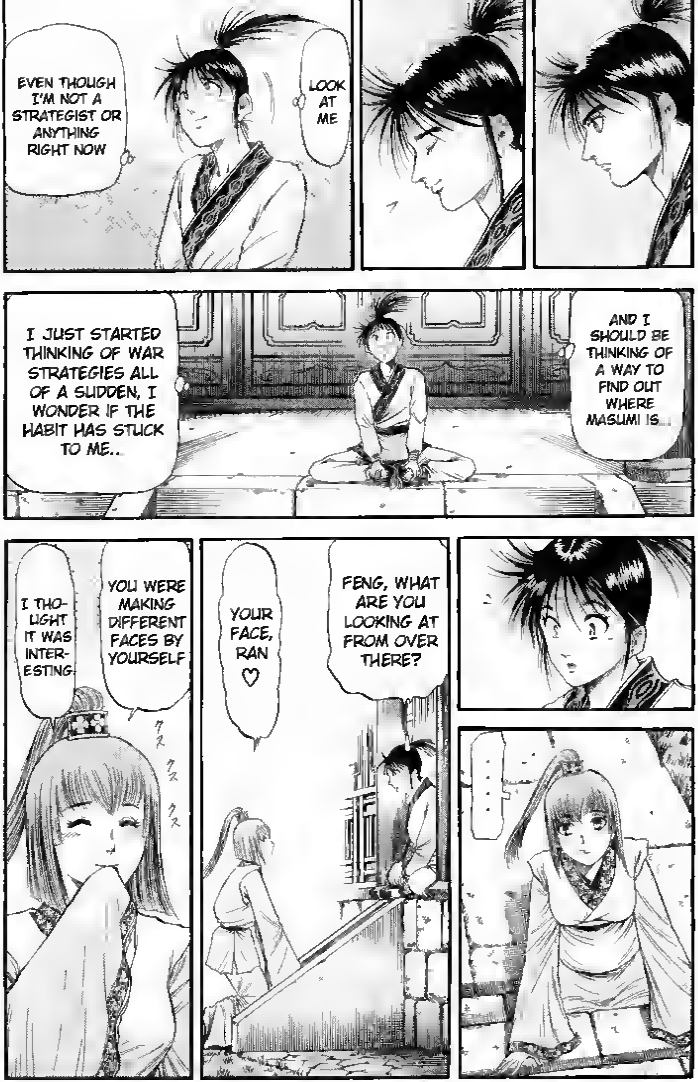


COMING HERE TO THE CAPITAL ..
LORD XUAN DE IS ..

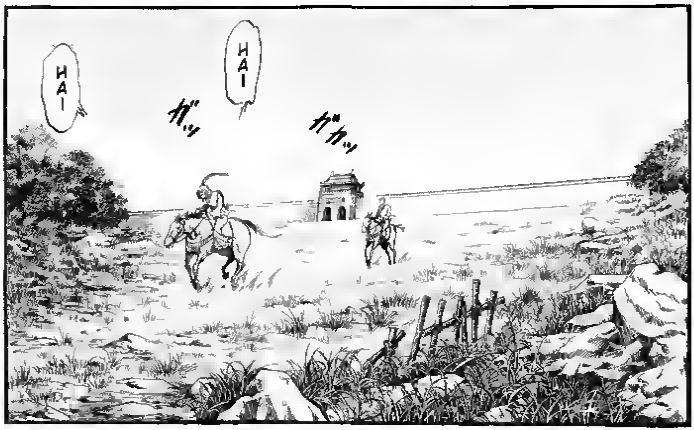

THE EMPEROR IS APPOINTING LORD XUAN DE AS GOVERNOR OF XU PROVINCE, BUT SOMETHING DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT...
ACCORDING TO WHAT MINISTER QI SAID...


CAO CAO WHO IS IN SOUTHERN YOU PROVINCE CAN BE ATTACKED FROM THE NORTH AND EAST, AS WELL AS BY WU, FROM THREE DIRECTIONS
XU CHANG
XU
SHOU CHUN
(CAO CAO)
WU
CERTAINLY, IF LORD XUAN DE BECAME GOVERNOR OF XU PROV-INCE...


I WONDER WHAT CHUNG TA IS REALLY UP TO?
BEHIND THE EMPEROR LIES CHUNG TA... THERE HAS TO BE MORE TO IT
IN WHICH CASE, IT'LL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO TAKE CAO CAO, BUT..


EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT A STRATEGIST OR ANYTHING RIGHT NOW
LOOK AT ME
I JUST STARTED THINKING OF WAR STRATEGIES ALL OF A SUDDEN, I WONDER IF THE HABIT HAS STUCK TO ME..
AND I SHOULD BE THINKING OF A WAY TO FIND OUT WHERE MASUMI IS
I THOUGHT IT WAS INTERESTING
YOU WERE MAKING DIFFERENT FACES BY YOURSELF
クス クス クス
YOUR FACE, RAN ♡
FENG, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT FROM OVER THERE?

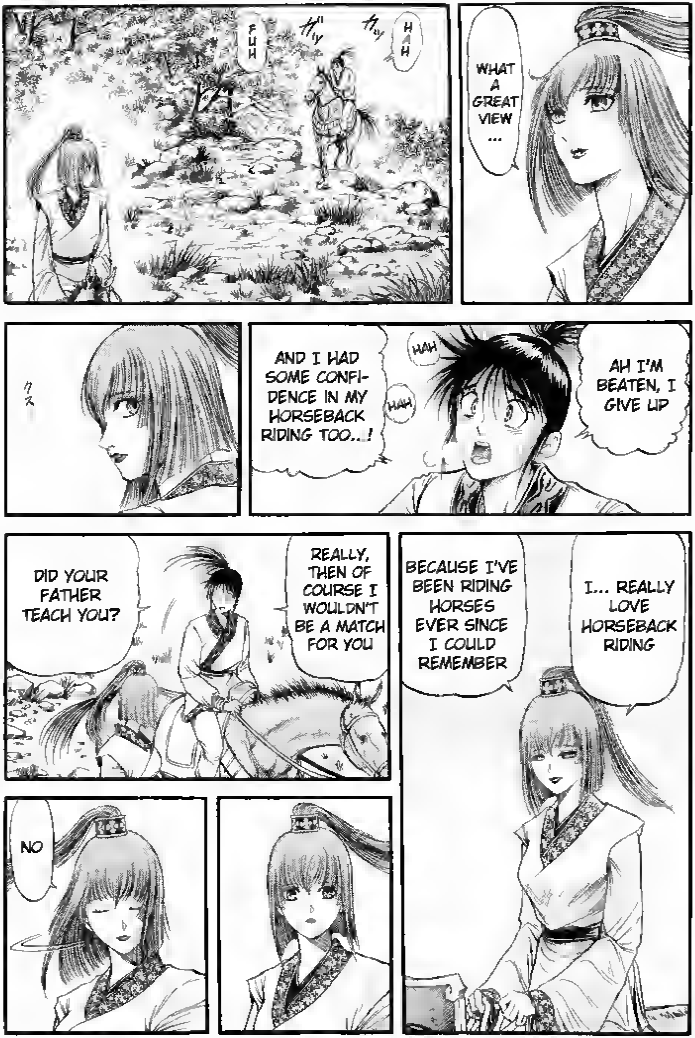
EH?
HEY RAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT?
AH...
WHY WOULD SOMETHING LIKE THAT BE INTERESTING
SINCE I'VE MOSTLY RECOVERED FROM MY INJURIES
AND YOU'VE BEEN STUCK IN THIS MANSION THE ENTIRE TIME, YOU MUST BE BORED
LET'S PLAY
A GAME OF "CHASE"
I'M NOT REALLY THAT BORED, BUT
SURE, WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

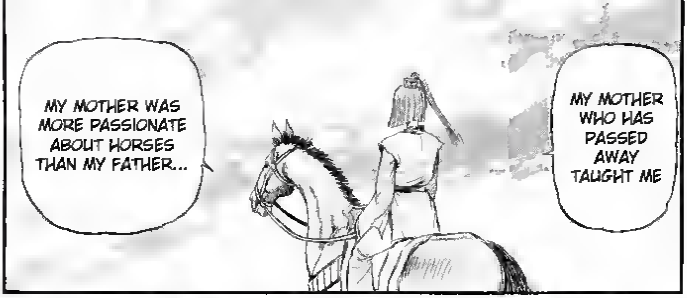

HAI
HAI

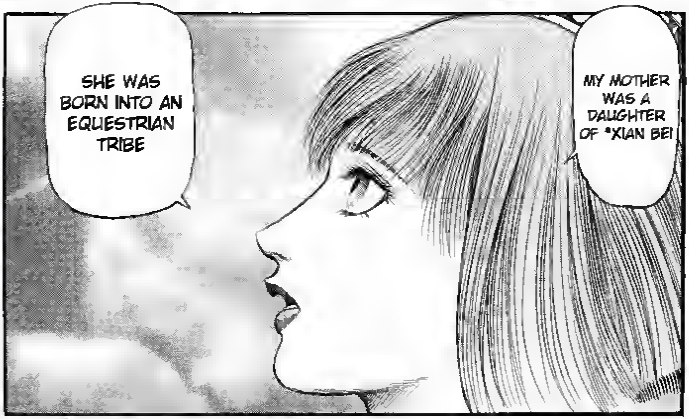
OK...

I'LL RACE YOU TO THAT HILL OVER THERE
RAN

FENG IS A DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN SHE RIDES A HORSE. SO LIVELY
OH MY, SO BY "CHASE" SHE MEANT TO RACE BY HORSE
AH...
ｶﾞﾀﾞｯ


HAH
FUH
WHAT A GREAT VIEW ...
AH I'M BEATEN, I GIVE UP
HAW
HAW
AND I HAD SOME CONFI-DENCE IN MY HORSEBACK RIDING TOO..!
I... REALLY LOVE HORSEBACK RIDING
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN RIDING HORSES EVER SINCE I COULD REMEMBER
REALLY, THEN OF COURSE I WOULDN'T BE A MATCH FOR YOU
DID YOUR FATHER TEACH YOU?
NO





*XIAN BEI: HISTORIC ETHNIC GROUP OF NORTHERN NOMADS

PROBABLY BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED I MIGHT EMBARESS HIM AS THE DAUGHTER OF A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
AFTER MOTHER MARRIED FATHER, I WAS RAISED UNDER CHINESE CUSTOMS
I DIDN'T GET THE FEELING THAT YOU WERE OF A DIFFERENT RACE
A LITTLE BIT...
THAT GIRL ALWAYS OPPOSED MOTHER...
WHAT ABOUT LI LI?
I DO NOT SEE THAT MINDSET REFLECTED IN YOUR EYES
JUST AS PEOPLE OF A DIFFERENT RACE WOULD NOT HAVE THE MINDSET TO THINK OF RANK, HIGH OR LOW
AHHAHAHA
I SEE
YOU RESEMBLE MY FATHER, RAN
AS I THOUGHT

I GET A DIFFERENT "SMELL" THAN THAT OF A CITIZEN OF CHINA FROM YOU, RAN
NO... RATHER
AND HIDING YOUR TRUE SELF...
ALWAYS EVADING BY MAKING LIGHT OF THINGS...
REALLY ...?
ALWAYS LIKE THAT, AREN'T YOU
YOU ARE

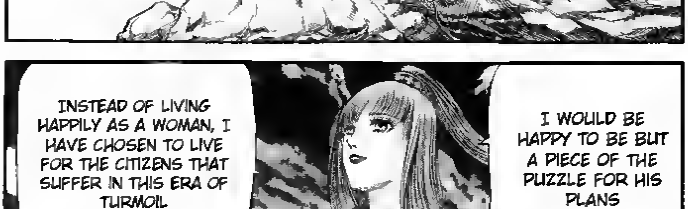
SHE'S REALIZED IT AND ISN'T CONFRONTING ME ...!
COULD IT BE.. THAT SHE KNOWS I WAS THE ONE WHO DEFEATED THE BANDITS!?
BUT I HEARD THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, LORD *LIU HUANG SHU WILL ARRIVE AT THE CAPITAL
AND I MUST PRESENT MYSELF BEFORE THE EMPEROR AT THAT TIME
I'M SORRY ...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TALK ABOUT THIS ...

*LIU HUANG SHU: ANOTHER NAME FOR LIU BEI OR XUAN DE

I WOULD RESIDE IN THE PALACE AND IT WOULD BE MY DUTY TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO HIM
AND IF I WERE TO BE CHOSEN BY THE EMPEROR
THE REASSURING VOICE THAT SAVED ME FROM THE BANDITS
AND IT CONTINUES TO SHAKE MY RESOLVE
EVEN NOW, THAT VOICE RESONATES WITHIN MY HEART
BUT I ...

I'VE HAD SUCH THOUGHTS
IF WE HAD MET EARLIER...
BECAUSE IF WE HAD MET EARLIER THEN PARTING WOULD BE EVEN MORE PAINFUL
BUT IF ENTERING THE PALACE IS MY FATE THEN THIS MIGHT BE FOR THE BETTER
ラ
FENG .....
.....

THE VIRTUE OF MY FATHER THAT EVEN PEOPLE OF OTHER RACES RESPECT WILL SURELY BECOME USEFUL IN BRINGING PEACE TO CHINA
I REVERE MY FATHER FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, PERHAPS I CAN DESCRIBE HIM AS MORE OF A TEACHER THAN A FATHER TO ME


INSTEAD OF LIVING HAPPILY AS A WOMAN, I HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE FOR THE CITIZENS THAT SUFFER IN THIS ERA OF TURMOIL
I WOULD BE HAPPY TO BE BUT A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE FOR HIS PLANS

WHAT I TAKE PRIDE IN
THAT IS

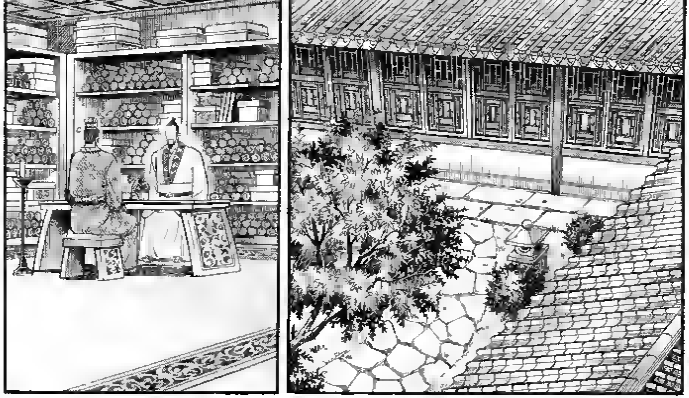
SHE'S A STRONG PERSON ....
.....
TO ANSWER HONOR WITH HONOR IS THE WAY OF PEOPLE
YOU'VE SPOKEN TO ME WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART, AND HELD NOTHING BACK
I WILL ALSO RETURN THAT FAVOR
EH?

AH
BREAK!
THOSE EYES ARE ...
FROM THAT TIME!

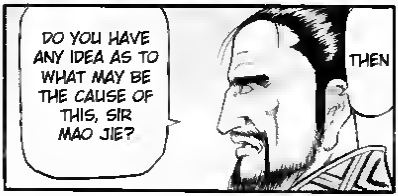
THE LAND
SPLIT APART !?
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ

AMACHI SHIRO
MY REAL NAME IS

PEOPLE ALSO CALL ME
"DRA-GON'S SON"
. . . .
DRAGON'S SON!?

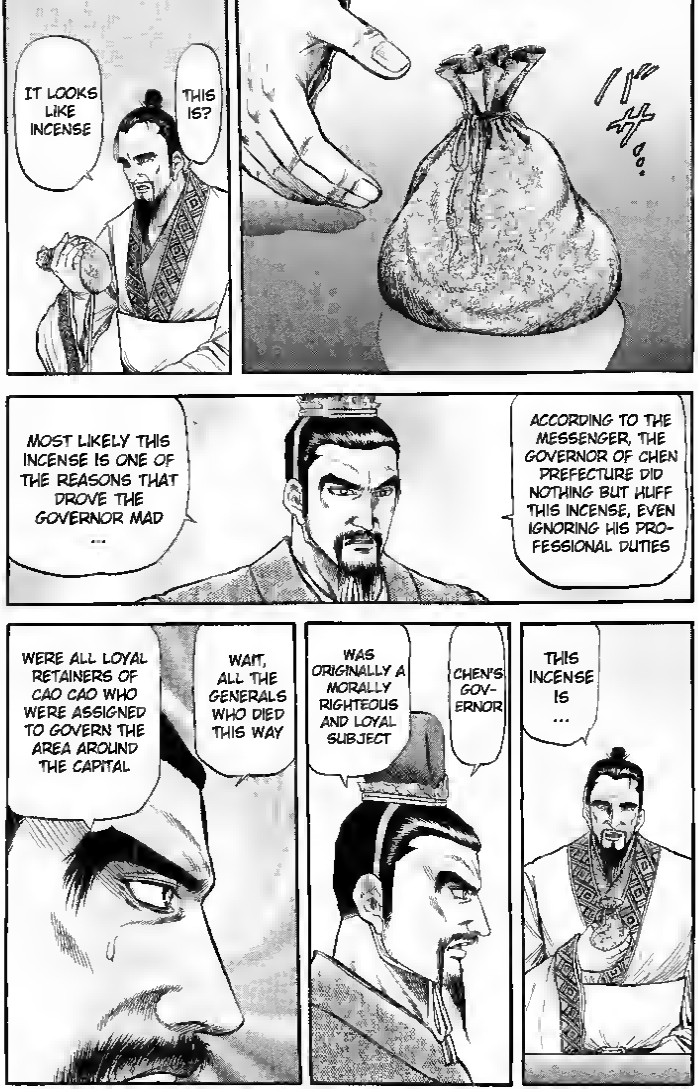


WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNNATURAL DEATHS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
I SEE, SO THE EMPEROR HAS ENTRUSTED THE PRIME MINISTER


DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA AS TO WHAT MAY BE THE CAUSE OF THIS, SIR MAO JIE?
THEN

ACTUALLY, THE SECRET MESSENGER I DISPATCHED TO CHEN PREFECTURE BROUGHT THIS BACK
HN

IT IS AS WE FEARED
UNFORTUNATELY


IT LOOKS LIKE INCENSE
THIS IS?
MOST LIKELY THIS INCENSE IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT DROVE THE GOVERNOR MAD ...
ACCORDING TO THE MESSENGER, THE GOVERNOR OF CHEN PREFECTURE DID NOTHING BUT HUFF THIS INCENSE, EVEN IGNORING HIS PROFESSIONAL DUTIES
WERE ALL LOYAL RETAINERS OF CAO CAO WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO GOVERN THE AREA AROUND THE CAPITAL
WAIT, ALL THE GENERALS WHO DIED THIS WAY
WAS ORIGINALLY A MORALLY RIGHTEOUS AND LOYAL SUBJECT
CHEN'S GOVERNOR
THIS INCENSE IS ...

IT IS STRANGE
INDEED
BUT WHY BETRAY CAO CAO SO ABRUPTLY...!?
THEY ALL APPROVED OF THE UPRISING AGAINST THE EMPEROR
I DON'T HAVE PROOF YET
BUT
IS WITHIN THIS INCENSE?
AND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUES-TION
BECAUSE IF I DID, THEY WOULD RECKLESSLY USE THIS AS PROOF TO ACCUSE CHUNG TA
HN, I HAVE NOT YET SPOKEN ABOUT IT
STILL HASN'T REACHED GOV'T AFFAIRS DEPT...
THEN THIS MATTER ...

IF WE ARE TO CHALLENGE CHUNG TA
THEN WE'LL NEED TO GATHER STRONG SUPPORTERS ON OUR SIDE!!
BUT RIGHT NOW THE IMPERIAL ARMY IS UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMAND
AS A CIVIL OFFICIAL, THERE ISN'T A GENERAL WHO WOULD BECOME OUR ALLY EVEN IF WE DEMANDED
NO
THERE IS ONE GENERAL WHO IS AT ODDS WITH CHUNG TA
GOVER-NOR OF XU PROV-INCE
LIU XUAN DE
!
WHO IS IT?

HE WILL COOPERATE WITH US
MOST LIKELY, IF XUAN DE'S HEART LIES WITH THE COUNTRY
!!
IN THE NEAR FUTURE, A HUGE DISASTER WILL BEFALL CHINA....!!
IF WE LEAVE GOVERNANCE OF THIS COUNTRY TO CHUNG TA LIKE THIS
BUT THAT IS BECAUSE WE PREDICTED THAT HE WOULD CHANGE WHEN THE EMPEROR TOOK HIS FAMILY
INDEED... WE DEFECTED TO THE EMPEROR WHILE UNDER CAO CAO'S COMMAND
OUR BETRAYAL OF CAO CAO
PERHAPS IT IS DUE TO

IF THAT IS THE TRUTH, THEN THERE IS AN EVEN BIGGER THREAT TO CHINA THAN CAO CAO THE "CONQUEROR"
BUT CHUNG TA MAY HAVE MANIPULATED THE HEARTS OF HIS LOYAL RETAINERS, AND DROVE THEM TO A CRUEL DEATH...!

WHICH IS WHY WE MUST NOT ALLOW HISTORY TO BE WRITTEN SUCH THAT WE TURNED OUR BACKS TO THE RIGHTEOUS PATH, AND INTO AN EVIL PATH, EVEN IF IT MEANS LOSING MY LIFE!!
IF THATS THE CASE THEN I, WHO SUPPORTED HIM, CARRY A MUCH BIGGER RESPONSIBILITY

SIR QI ...
IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, PLEASE SAY IT
THE PERSON WHO RECOMMENDED ME AS MINISTER WAS YOU, SIR MAO JIE
I UNDERSTAND
.....

I AM INDEBTED TO YOU, SIR QI ZHOU
PLEASE
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
WELL THEN, SIR QI ZHOU
I WILL VISIT AGAIN ANOTHER DAY
HN
I WILL

FATHER
SIR MAO JIE OF GOV'T AFFAIRS
HN
WAS THERE A GUEST?
I WILL GO TETHER THE HORSES
WELL THEN
Y, YES, VERY MUCH SO
Y-
THAT PERSON IS..
AH
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WENT OUT ON HORSE WITH RAN

PLEASE
AH, OK
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WHAT'S WRONG? SUCH AN AWKWARD RESPONSE..
NO
IT WAS NOTHING

DOES THIS IN-CENSE
REALLY CAUSE PEOPLE TO GO MAD?
IT'S NOT SAFE, BUT...
IT LOOKS LIKE I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO TEST IT ON MYSELF
#?:

MU!
WHAT IS THIS ...!?
THIS... FEELING IS...!!

WHAT IS THIS FEELING OF LIBERATION, AS IF I AM SOARING THROUGH THE SKY....!?
MY BODY IS BEING SUCKED INTO THE AIR
ガタッ!!
TO THINK THERE IS SUCH A SWEET PLACE WITHIN THIS WORLD...!
MY MIND FEELS AN INCREASING AND LIMITLESS HIGH...
!!
FUFUFU

HOW WAS IT? IT FEELS GOOD, DOESN'T IT?
YOU SHOULD BE FEELING MORE PLEASURE RIGHT NOW THAN IF YOU WERE TO EMBRACE A WOMAN
A WOMAN!
WHEN DID SHE GET INTO MY ROOM!?
MY NAME IS CHI FEI HU
BUT IT'S UNFORTUNATE, YOU WON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE
YOU ...!
WHO ARE YOU !?

CHUNG TA'S ....!!
ARE YOU ...
YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON TO LAY EYES ON THAT INCENSE
BUT YOU'RE SOME-THING
YOU'RE BEFITTING TO BE MY PREY... VERY MUCH SO!
A BENEVOLENT AND WISE NOBLEMAN...
I WILL HAVE THAT HEART OF YOURS!!
MAO JIE!

HN
A LITTLE FURTHER AND WE'LL BE AT THE CAPITAL, ELDER BROTHER

THIS IS THE LAND THAT CAO CAO AND I BEGAN A WAR ON
THE CAPI-TAL, IS IT .
OH CAPITAL OF THE EMPEROR!
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF BATTLE AWAITS ME THIS TIME

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PROOFREADER: NEOPHYTE
QA: NEOPHYTE
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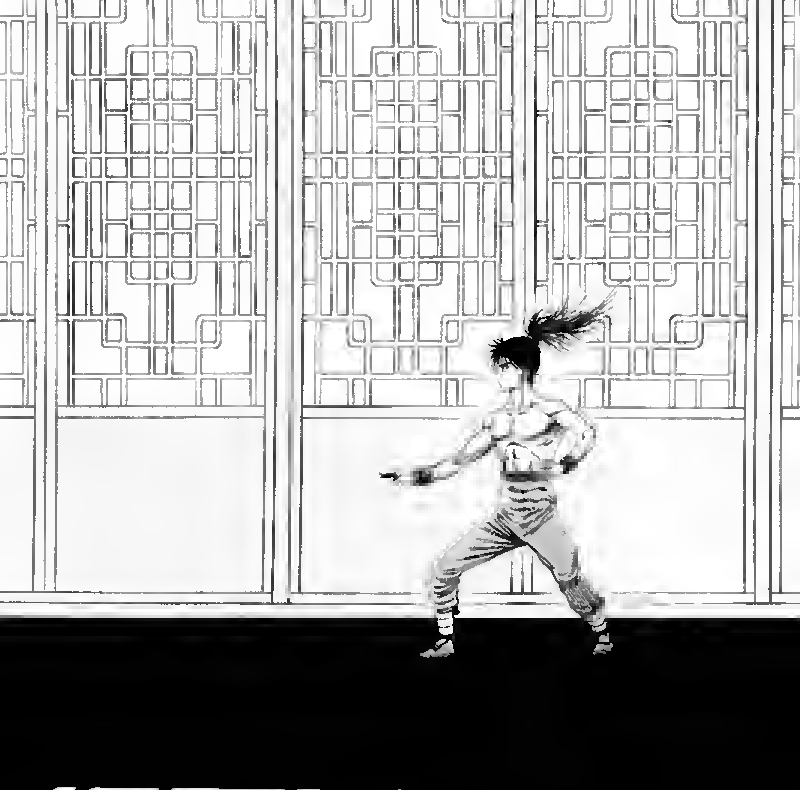
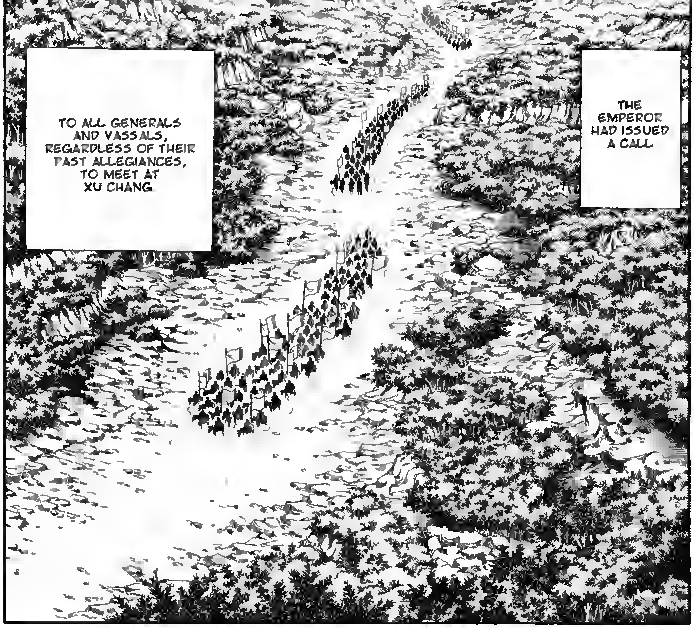
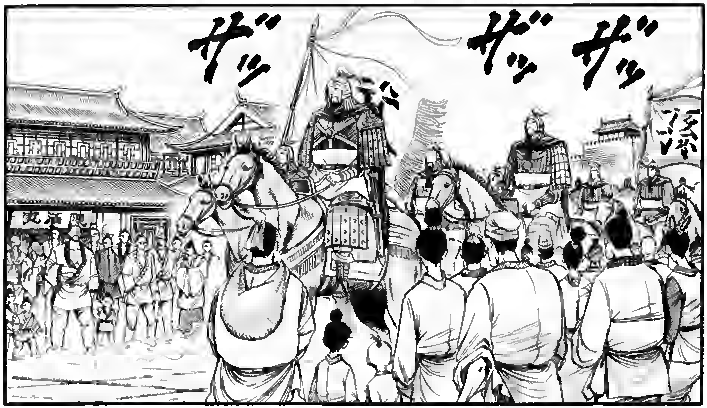
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Chapter 78
THE GRAND BANQUET


TO ALL GENERALS AND VASSALS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR PAST ALLEGIANCES, TO MEET AT XU CHANG
THE EMPEROR HAD ISSUED A CALL

EVEN THEN, THIS WAS ENOUGH TO CAUSE QUITE A COMMOTION IN THE CAPITAL
TO PREVENT MUTINY, EVERYONE COULD ONLY BRING A SMALL TROOP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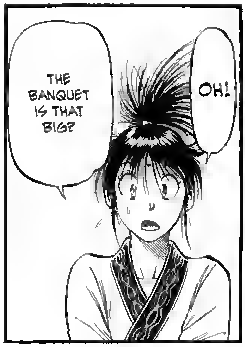
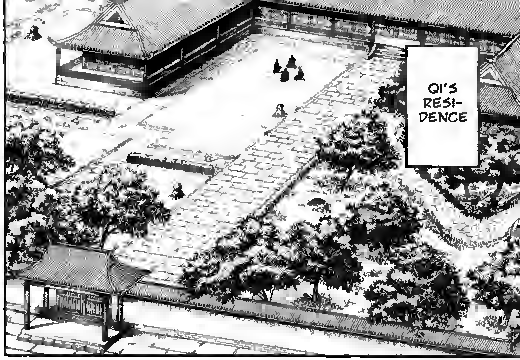
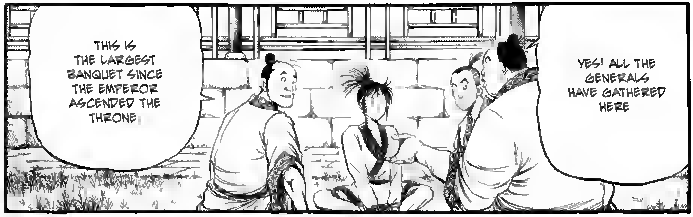
THE EMPEROR HAS COMMANDED WHO DARE NOT TO DISOBEY?
FROM THAT FAR AWAY?
EVEN PEOPLE FROM XUZHOU AND JINGZHOU HAVE COME
SO EXCITING!

CAO CAO MUST BE LOSING GROUND RIGHT NOW
NO WONDER PEOPLE EVERYWHERE ARE RISING UP AGAINST CAO CAO

BUT THE CURRENT PRIME MINISTER HAS TOTAL CONTROL OF XU CHANG
BEFORE, CAO CAO'S FORCES HAD NO OPPOSITION

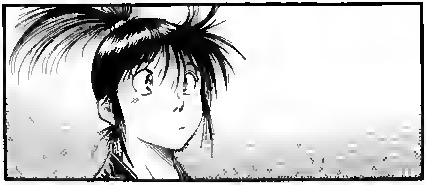

THE BANQUET IS THAT BIG?
OH!


QI'S RESI-DENCE


THIS IS THE LARGEST BANQUET SINCE THE EMPEROR ASCENDED THE THRONE
YES! ALL THE GENERALS HAVE GATHERED HERE

I WANT TO GO TOO!
IF IT'S THAT GREAT

ATTENDED BY BEAUTIFUL IMPERIAL MAIDS
I HEARD THEY'LL BE SERVING ALL KINDS OF DELICACIES



NO WAY THEY'D INVITE SOMEONE LIKE YOU!
YOU'RE CRAZY!
NOBODY KNOWS
HE'S ACTUALLY THE DRAGON'S SON, WHO IS EVEN MORE RESPECTED THAN CAO CAO
SIR DRA-GON'S SON

YOU'RE THE FAMOUS DRAGON'S SON?
WHAT?
HOW CAN YOU BE HERE?
BUT THE DRAGON'S SON IS RIGHT NEXT TO LORD XUAN DE
I CAN ROAM THE LANDS
THAT WAY
ASKED LORD XUAN DE TO HAVE SOMEONE DISGUISED AS ME

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR A SPECIAL PERSON
YES
REALLY ?
SHE'S THE DRAGON'S SON'S FRIEND
THE DRAGON MAIDEN
SHE...
FELL INTO THE YANGTZE RIVER ALONG WITH ONE OF ZHONG DA'S MEN...
!!

THEN HE MUST HAVE BROUGHT HER BACK TO XU CHANG
IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE

MY FATHER WHO'S A MINISTER SHOULD'VE HEARD ABOUT IT.
BUT IF THAT WERE TRUE

BUT I CAN PROBABLY FIND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT HER HERE.
PERHAPS SHE'S NOT IN XU CHANG

YOU'RE RIGHT
YES

I WILL FIND A WAY TO GET HER BACK.
WHATEVER HAPPENS
PLEASE
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE WHO I REALLY AM.
BECAUSE OF THAT

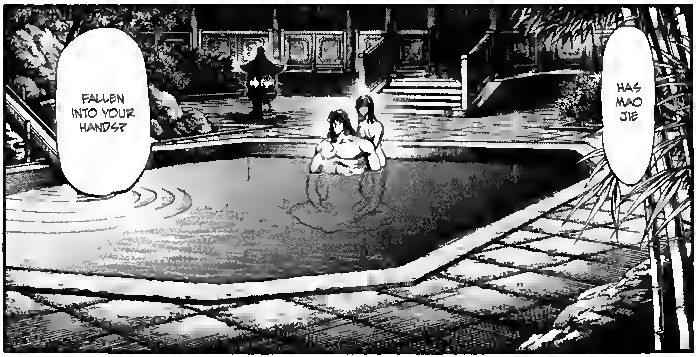
SIR DRAGON'S SON
I'M HERE!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU
I HEARD YOU'LL BE PERFORMING A DANCE IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR.
IS THAT TRUE?
YES.

OH
I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO SEE IT AS WELL
HEY FAN!
!
HELP ME FEED THE HORSES!
AH SORRY! RIGHT AWAY!
HA HA
HE'S VERY SOCIABLE AND EASY-GOING
AND EVERYBODY LOVES HIM
YES.
HE'S STECIAL. EASILY GETTING PEOPLE TO TRUST HIM

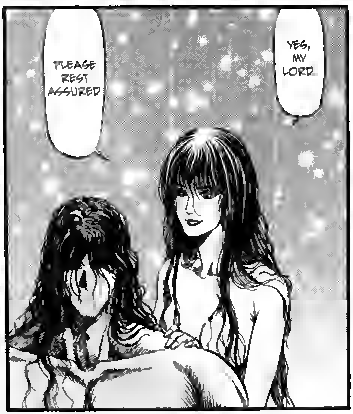
LORD XUAN DE WILL ARRIVE IN XU CHANG TOMORROW.
!
THE BANQUET WILL BE THEN
YOU WILL HAVE TO DANCE IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR AND ALL THE GENERALS, WILL YOU BE OK?
FA-THER
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN
MY DEAR DAUGH-TER
IS IT THAT HARD TO REMOVE THE IMAGE OF THE DRAGON'S SON FROM YOUR HEART?
!

I'M SORRY.
I'M NOT A GOOD FATHER.
FATHER...
...
BESIDES...
HE ALREADY HAS SOMEONE HE LOVES.
FATHER...
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.

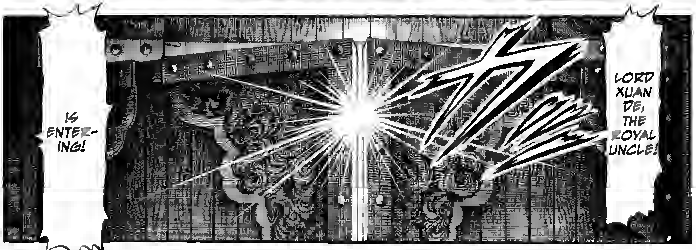
PRIME MINISTER'S MANSE

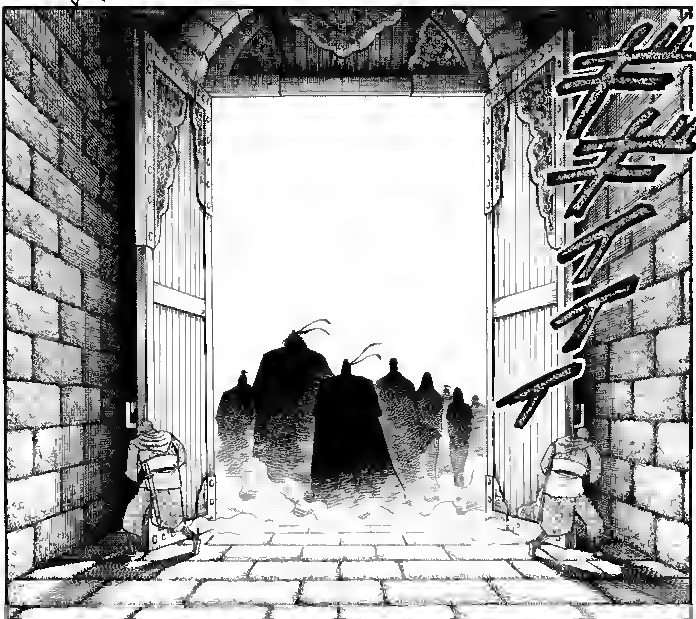

HAS MAO JIE
FALLEN INTO YOUR HANDS?

IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE A SHAME.
A MAN WITH HIS TALENTS COULD STILL BE USEFUL


YES, MY LORD.
PLEASE REST ASSURED

BUT THE SECRET OF THE POWDER BAG
HAS BEEN FOUND OUT BY HIM.
BESIDES
I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND.
THE RIGHTEOUS AND RESPECTED MAO JIE
IF WE JUST KILL HIM, THEN ALL THE OTHER OFFICIALS WON'T BE HAPPY
AT TOMORROW'S BANQUET
LET'S MAKE MAO JIE'S DEATH UNFORGETTABLE


LORD XUAN DE, THE ROYAL UNCLE!
IS ENTER-ING!

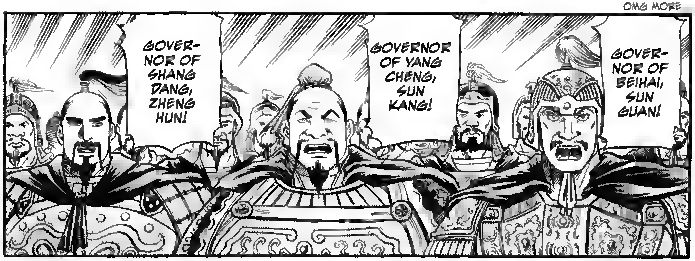


THIS IS ...
OH!

GOVERNOR OF DONG GUAN, YIN LI!
GOVERNOR OF LI CHENG, WU DUN!
GOVERNOR OF QING ZHOU, ZANG BA!
ZHOU WU!

DEPUTY-GENERAL CHENG YI!
DEPUTY-GENERAL, LI KAN!
DEPUTY-GENERAL, YANG QIU!
GENERAL HAN YUE OF BING ZHOU!

* WHEW!


GOVERNOR OF SHANG DANG, ZHENG HUN!
GOVERNOR OF YANG CHENG, SUN KANG!
GOVERNOR OF BEIHAI, SUN GUAN!

ALL THE LEADERS FROM THE VASSAL STATES HAVE COME TO XU CHANG.
I CAN'T BELIEVE

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN
LORD LIU BEI!
ス…

OH!
SIR MA TENG
OH?
SO THIS IS GUAN YUN CHANG, THE MAN WITH THE STRENGTH OF 10,000?
YOUR REPUTATION IS WELL MERITED
WHY DON'T WE HAVE A LITTLE SPAR?

HA HA
DON'T BE DISRESPECTFUL!
CHAO!
ザワ…
ザワ
HE'S BRAVE ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE GENERAL GUAN YU!
RUMORED TO HAVE THE STRENGTH EQUAL TO THAT OF LU BU?
THAT'S MA CHAO?
STRATEGIST KONG MING, THERE ARE SO MANY GREAT GENERALS HERE!
OH!
IT'S NOTHING. YOUR SON SURE IS A FINE FIGHTER.
PLEASE FORGIVE HIM.
SO OF COURSE.
THIS IS THE SOURCE OF THE EMPEROR'S POWERS.

IS THIS IMMENSE PRESSURE ...
WHAT ...

ALL THEIR CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN SWEPT AWAY BY HIM.
INCRE-DIBLE

THE ENEMY OF THE DRAGON'S SONS?
THIS PER-SON IS ...

YES
YUE YING, TRY IT.

STILL ALIVE
SO HE'S

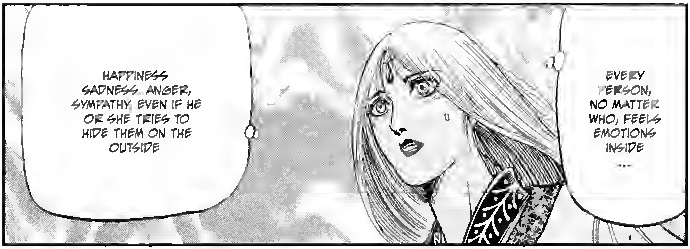
SIMA
ZHONG
DA!

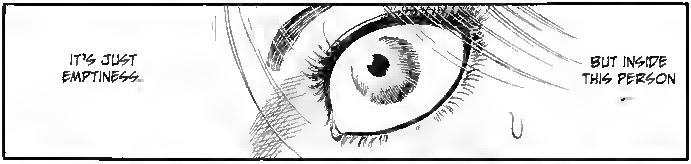
THE LONG JOURNEYS MUST'VE BEEN TIRING.
EVERYONE ...
THE EMPEROR WILL BE VERY PLEASED.
SEEING YOUR MAGNIFICENT SENSE OF DUTY AND HONOR
WILL LIVE ON FOREVER IN HISTORY!
YOUR NAMES
BUT IT'S ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY TO SWEAR AN OATH TO REUNITE THIS GREAT NATION
TODAY'S BANQUET ISN'T JUST TO MEET THE EMPEROR.

GREAT WARRIORS, THE BANQUET IS READY.
PLEASE SHOW THE EMPEROR YOUR VIGOR AND LOYALTY.
HE'S—
SIMA ZHONG DA?
SO YOUNG BUT SO IMPOSING
DEFINITELY NOT AN ORDINARY MAN.
WITH HIS HELP—
IT'S NO WONDER THE EMPEROR BELIEVES WE CAN DEFEAT CAO CAO.

LOOK HOW TERRIFIED ALL THE GENERALS ARE...
SUCH PRESSURE
LORD XUAN DE, YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY BELIEVE HIM?!
TO REUNITE THIS GREAT NATION?!
WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL OF WHAT WE SAY
FOR NOW —
WHAT DO YOU THINK STRATEGIST KONG MING?
HMPH.
MY LORD
YUEYING IS BETTER AT THIS THAN I AM.

WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK AFTER YOUR FIRST MEETING WITH HIM?
EVEN IF I SAY IT ...
NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ...
THIS GUY, ZHONG DA ...
HE'S ...
I'M NOT SURE ...
IF HE EVEN HAS A HEART ...


HAPPINESS SADNESS, ANGER, SYMPATHY, EVEN IF HE OR SHE TRIES TO HIDE THEM ON THE OUTSIDE
EVERY PERSON, NO MATTER WHO, FEELS EMOTIONS INSIDE ...


IT'S JUST EMPTINESS.
BUT INSIDE THIS PERSON ...

TOTAL DARKNESS. EVEN MY CONCIOUSNESS WAS ALMOST SUCKED INTO THE VOID.
IT'S AS BLACK AS NIGHT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE...
SUCH A PERSON EXISTS...
!
HE'S LOOKING OVER HERE...
IS HE STARING DIRECTLY AT ME?

NO! HE REALLY WAS ABLE TO SENSE MY POWER...
AM I BEING PARA-NOID?
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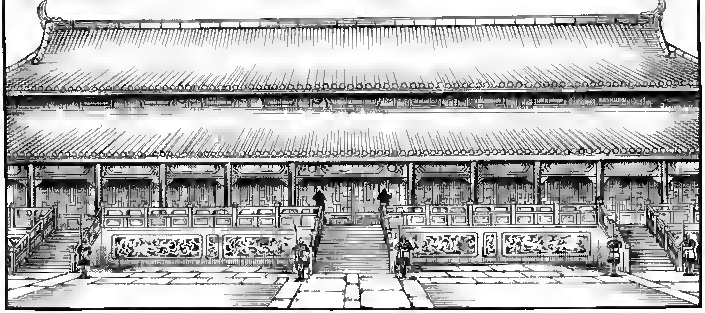
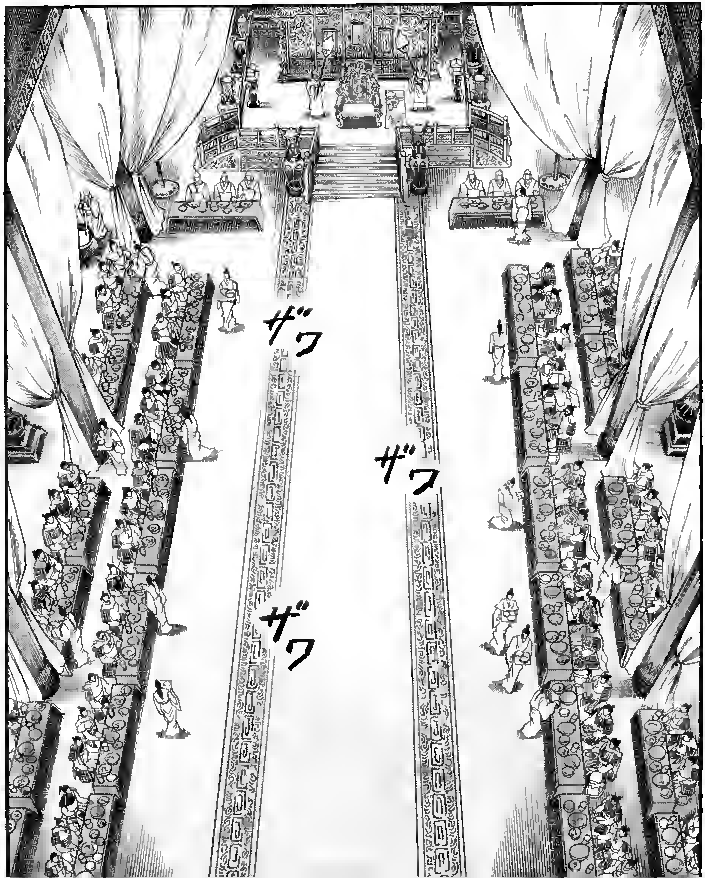
INTERESTING
XUAN DE'S UNDERLINGS YOU REALLY CAN'T UNDERESTIMATE ANY.
THAT GIRL HAS A RATHER STRANGE ABILITY

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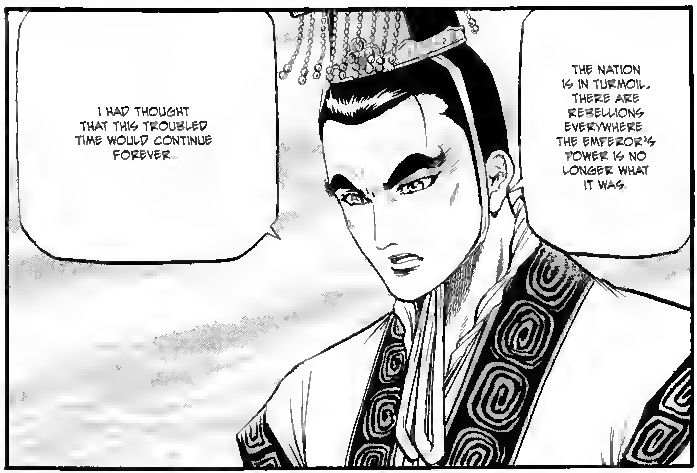
THE EMPEROR HAS ARRIVED!
LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR! LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!

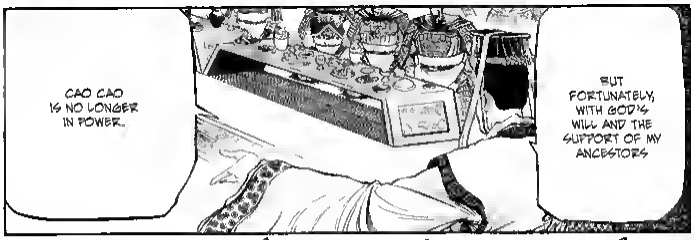
PLEASE SIT.
HEROES OF GREAT HAN.

THANK YOU YOUR HIGHNESS

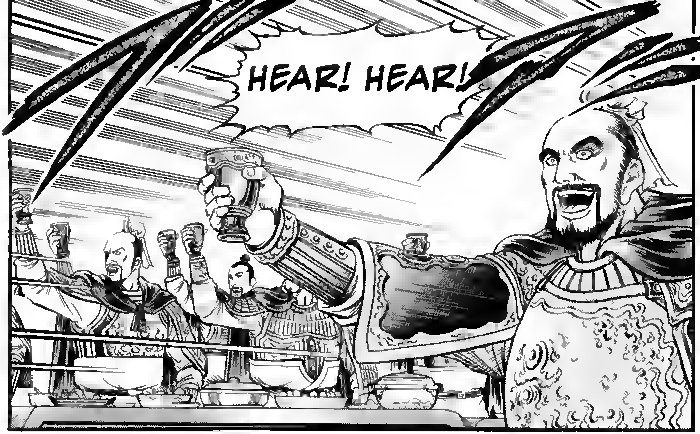
IT HAS BEEN A LONG PERIOD OF TIME
.....

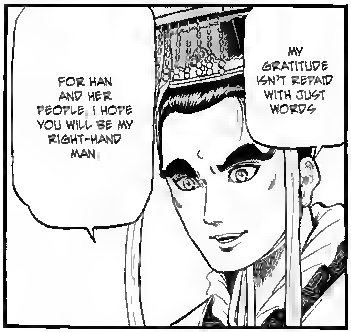

I HAD THOUGHT THAT THIS TROUBLED TIME WOULD CONTINUE FOREVER.
THE NATION IS IN TURMOIL. THERE ARE REBELLIONS EVERYWHERE. THE EMPEROR'S POWER IS NO LONGER WHAT IT WAS.

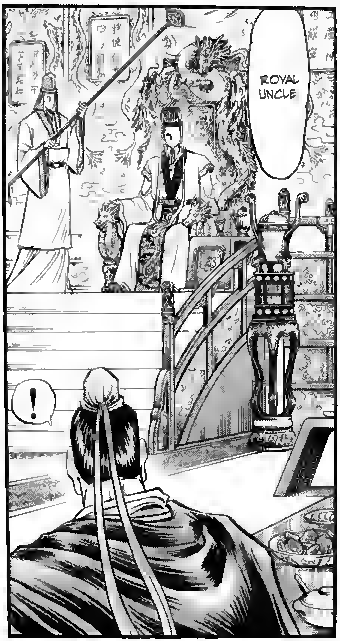
I WOULD HAVE HAD TAKEN MY RESENTMENT WITH ME TO MY GRAVE.
IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN THEN THE HAN DYNASTY WOULD BE OVER.


CAO CAO IS NO LONGER IN POWER.
BUT FORTUNATELY, WITH GOD'S WILL AND THE SUPPORT OF MY ANCESTORS

LET'S RAISE OUR GLASSES TO THE FUTURE AND PROSPERITY OF GREAT HAN!
SO NOW, TO ALL THE BRAVE WARRIORS WHO HAVE GATHERED HERE TODAY WITH THE SAME GOAL OF DEFEATING CAO CAO.


HEAR! HEAR!


FOR HAN AND HER PEOPLE, I HOPE YOU WILL BE MY RIGHT-HAND MAN.
MY GRATITUDE ISN'T REPAID WITH JUST WORDS


ROYAL UNCLE
!

I'M HERE TO SERVE
YES YOUR HIGH-NESS.

TO HEAR THOSE WORDS FROM UNCLE
I'M FILLED WITH HOPE...
* MEI'E A: IS IMPLIED
WOW.
HIS HIGHNESS HAS CHANGED SO MUCH
I REMEMBER HE WAS STILL A WEAK BOY WHEN WE FIRST MET
CONTROLLED BY CAO CAO AND HIS MEN, HE HAD NO PRESENCE OF AN EMPEROR. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE HAS CHANGED SO QUICKLY.

THIS IS OUR TIME TO PROTECT HIS HIGHNESS.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE EMPEROR HAS BECOME MUCH MORE RELIABLE

THAT'S RIGHT AS LONG AS WE'RE COMMITED TO RESTORING HAN
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS OUR DEDICATION
BUT HOW WILL WU AND CAO CAO REACT TO THIS?

FOR EVERYONE TO FORGET ABOUT THE PAST AND UNITE WITH A COMMON GOAL
TODAY'S BANQUET IS DEFINITELY A GOOD OPPORTUNITY . . .

SUCH VIGOROUS ENERGY

YES.

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!
I HAVE A BAD FEELING
COULD IT JUST BE BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
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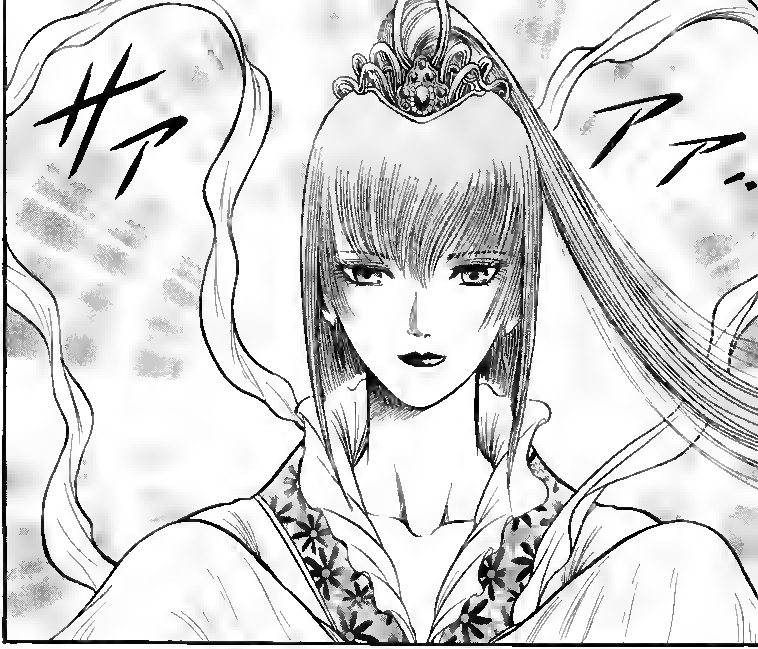
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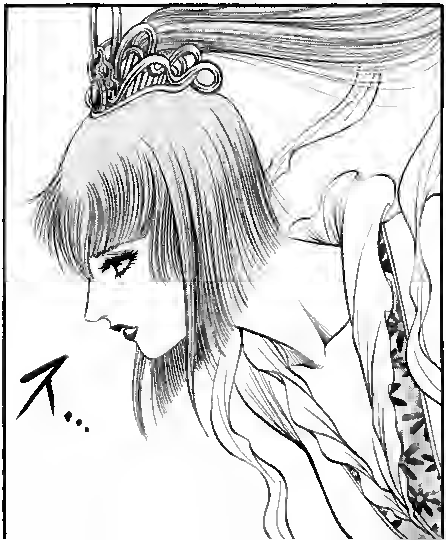
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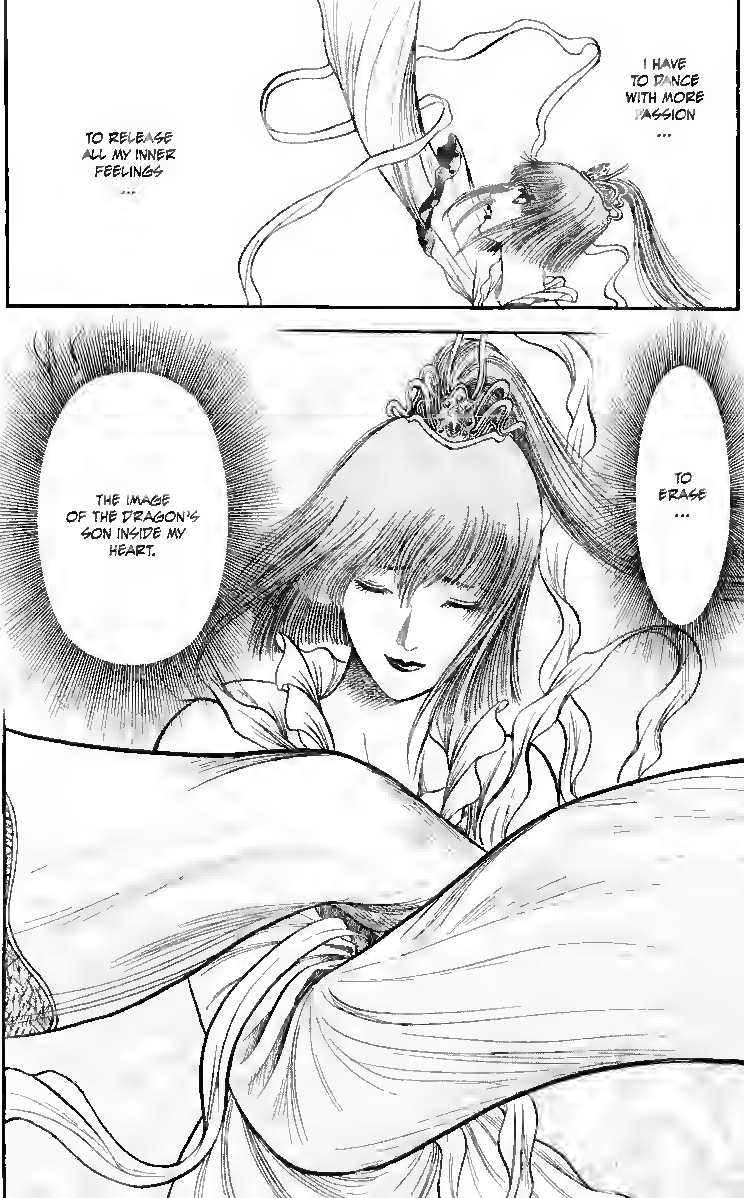
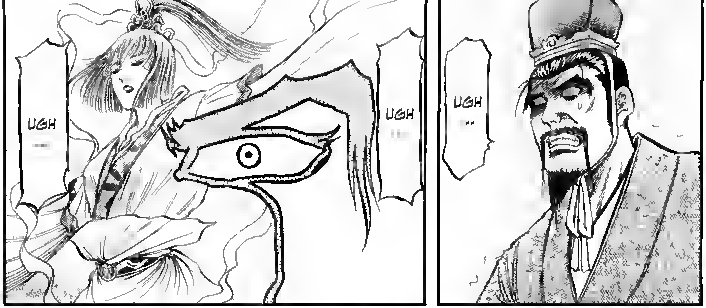
WOW!
HOW BEAUTI-FUL!

VERY GOOD!
WHAT A WONDERFUL DANCE

SIR DRAGON'S SON!


I HAVE TO DANCE WITH MORE PASSION ...
TO RELEASE ALL MY INNER FEELINGS ...
TO ERASE ...
THE IMAGE OF THE DRAGON'S SON INSIDE MY HEART.


UGH
UGH
UGH
..

HA
HA

THERE'S NO POINT TRYING TO FIGHT IT, MAO JIE.
GO. THE TIME FOR YOUR FRANTIC DANCE HAS COME.
END OF VOL20

Monthly Shonen Magazine Comics